

FEB 16 1946

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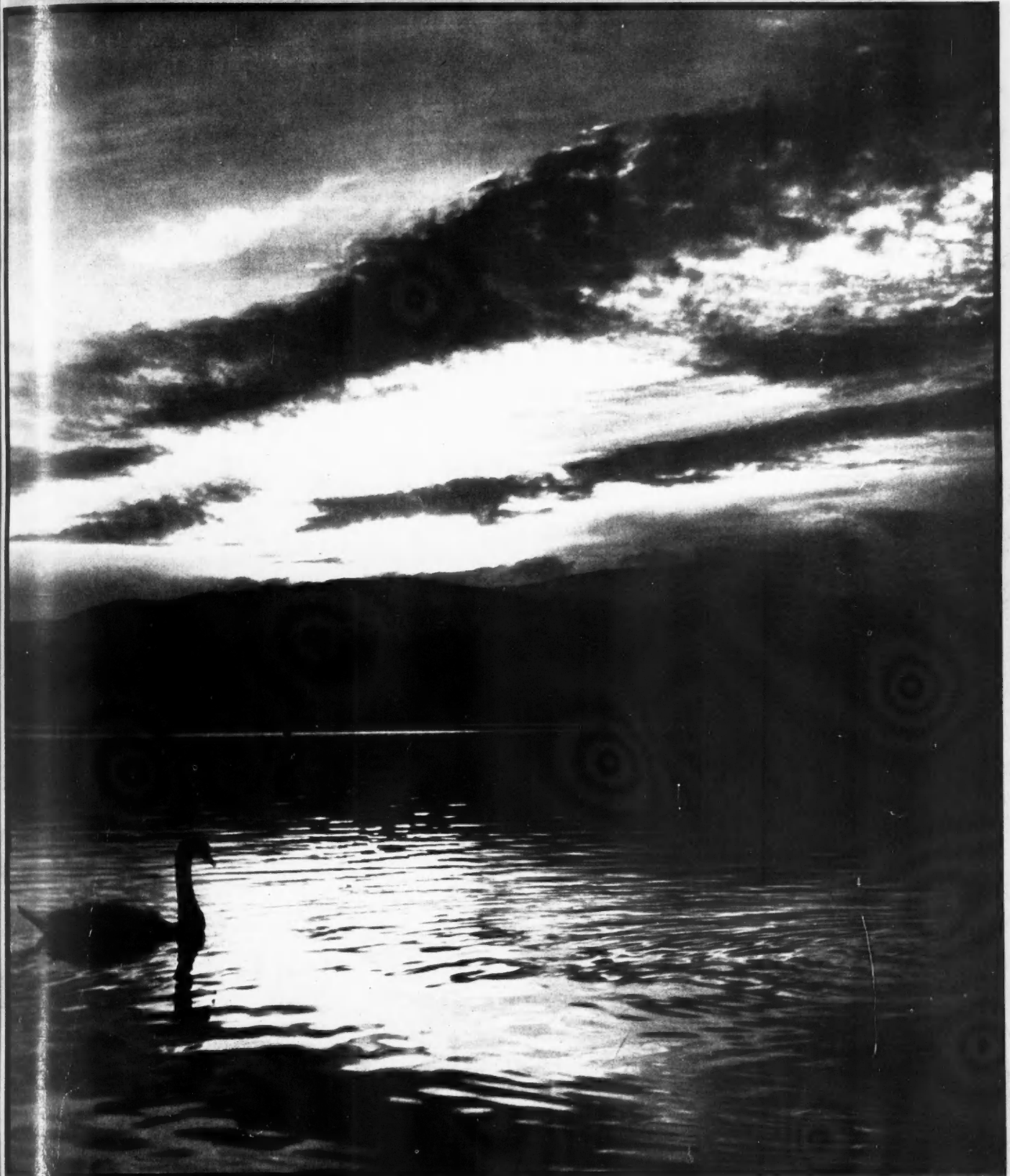
COUNTRY LIFE

On Sale Friday

JANUARY 25, 1946

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MISCELLANEOUS

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"COUNTRY LIFE" posted, 1 week old. Full price, including postage.—MISS TOWE, East View, Easton, Winchester.

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ADVERTISING PAGE 149

COUNTRY LIFE

Vol. XCIX. No. 2558

JANUARY 25, 1946

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3,500 ACRES OF LAND

Model buildings and 5 cottages with electric light and bathrooms. Early entry.

PRICE, FRACTION OF COST, £10,000 FOR QUICK SALE

Inspected and strongly recommended.

Particulars from JACKSON STOPS & STAFF, Bridge Street, Northampton.

TO MARKET GARDENERS, FRUIT GROWERS AND OTHERS.

WHITE CHAPEL FARM

EVESHAM ROAD, BROADWAY.

Broadway 2½ miles. Evesham 3 miles.

An excellent and rare opportunity of obtaining a small compact Fruit and Market Gardening concern together with Fine Old Cotswold Stone-built Residence, containing 3-4 RECEPTION ROOMS, 7-8 BEDROOMS, BATHROOM, MAIN ELECTRICITY, WATER AND GAS. TELEPHONE. Stone-built range of Outbuildings including Garage, Workshop, Packing Shed, Fertilizer Stores, etc.

The Land comprises **13 ACRES** of Plum and Apple Orchard and **12½ ACRES** of excellent Arable Land producing heavy crops throughout the year.

IN ALL ABOUT 25½ ACRES

The Farm has been conducted on scientific lines, is ready for IMMEDIATE OCCUPATION, and would be sold with or without the entire equipment.

FOR SALE BY PRIVATE TREATY, OR IF UNSOLD BY AUCTION AT THE ROSE AND CROWN HOTEL, EVESHAM, ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1946, at 3 p.m.

Sale Particulars (Price 6d. each) available from the Solicitor: G. ROWBERRY, ESQ., Barclays Bank Chambers, Gloucester; Tel. 4748; or the Auctioneers: Messrs. JACKSON STOPS, Castle Street, Cirencester. Tel. 334/5. Also at London, Northampton, Leeds, Yeovil and Chichester.

SOUTH DOWNS

Occupying a sheltered position in a charming small village amidst unspoiled country, within sight of the Channel, Attractive Modernised Residence, having 13 RECEPTION ROOMS, CLOAKROOM, 8 PRINCIPAL AND SECONDARY BEDROOMS, 2 BATHROOMS, ETC. Complete DOMESTIC OFFICES. MAIN WATER, ELECTRICITY and GAS. GARAGE and STABLING.

Delightful gardens and grounds, in all just over

2 ACRES.

PRICE FREEHOLD, £9,750

Details of the Owner's Agents: JACKSON STOPS AND STAFF, 37, South Street, Chichester (Tel.: 3443)

BETWEEN COLCHESTER AND THE COAST

CHARMING QUEEN ANNE RESIDENCE

14 BEDROOMS, 4 BATHROOMS, 5 RECEPTION ROOMS. MAIN ELECTRICITY. GOOD WATER SUPPLY. CENTRAL HEATING.

3 COTTAGES AND LODGE.

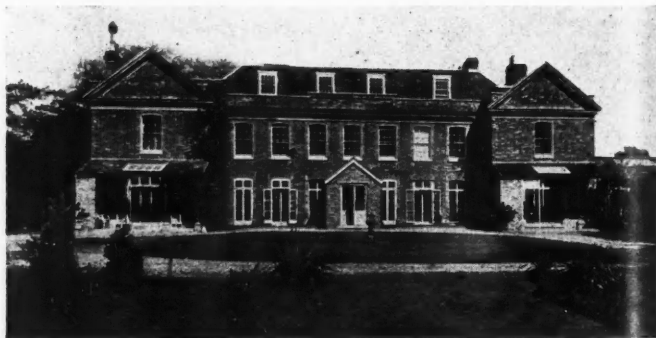
Fine Parklands and Woodlands.

2 Farms let off, about

372 ACRES

FOR SALE WITH VACANT POSSESSION

Apply, JACKSON STOPS & STAFF, 8, Hanover Street, London, W.1. (Mayfair 3316/7)



Grosvenor 3121
(3 lines)

WINKWORTH & CO.

48, CURZON STREET, MAYFAIR, LONDON, W.1

ASCOT, BERKS

On high ground with open view. Almost adjoining golf course.



A VERY ATTRACTIVE MODERN RESIDENCE

8 bed and dressing rooms, 4 bathrooms, hall, 4 reception rooms. Main services. Fitted basins. Central heating.

GARAGE FOR 2-3 CARS WITH CHAUFFEUR'S ROOM.

WELL-TIMBERED GARDENS AND GROUNDS, ABOUT 4 ACRES. FOR SALE.

POSSESSION BY ARRANGEMENT

Sole Agents: WINKWORTH & CO., 48, Curzon Street, London, W.1.

WEST SUSSEX, NEAR GOODWOOD

In a favourite part of the county and within easy reach of the coast. 2 miles Station. Electric Service.



A COUNTRY HOUSE

OF PLEASING GEORGIAN CHARACTER.

Seated in a well-timbered park, and having delightful views embracing the Downs; it contains 20 bed, dressing, 9 bath and 5 reception rooms, and is fitted with all up-to-date conveniences and services.

STABLING, GARAGES, COTTAGES, GARDENS, GROUNDS AND PARKLAND.

IN ALL OVER 60 ACRES

FOR SALE.

VACANT POSSESSION.

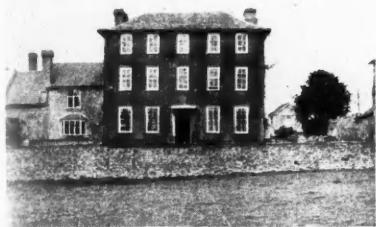
Owner's Agents: Messrs. WINKWORTH & CO., 48, Curzon Street, Mayfair, London, W.1.

KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY

Vacant Possession.

HEREFORDSHIRE

Ross-on-Wye 6 miles. Hereford 15 miles.



TREBIBBLE, THREE ASHES, with about 65 ACRES and half a mile of Trout Fishing. **QUEEN ANNE RESIDENCE** in good order, built of stone with tiled and slated roof, contains paneling. Approached by 1/4-mile drive. The House stands about 250 feet up on lean soil facing South. Lounge hall, 3 reception, 9 bed (each with basin), day and night nurseries, 4 bathrooms. **Central heating. Co.'s electricity.**

Telephone. Spring water supply. Septic tank drainage. Stabling and garages for 4 cars. Cottage and farm buildings. Small garden with hard tennis court. Good kitchen garden. Orchard. The remainder of the land is being farmed. Fishing. Hunting. Golf. **For SALE by AUCTION on JANUARY 31 at the SWAN HOTEL, ROSS-ON-WYE (unless previously sold).**

Solicitors: Messrs. Baddeley, Wardlaw & Co., 77, Leadenhall Street, E.C.3. Auctioneers: Messrs. APPERLEY & BROWN, Bank Chambers, Hereford. Messrs. KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY, 20, Hanover Square, W.1. Particulars 1s.

UNDER 35 MILES SOUTH-WEST OF LONDON

Easy reach of three Stations of S.R. Fast trains to London. Heart of the Pine and Heather Country. Choice position about 260 feet up on sandy soil facing south and west.



The Residence is substantially built of red brick, half-timbering and tiled roof, and approached by a drive of 150 yards. Halls, 4 reception, 13 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms.

Central heating. Electric Light. Telephone. Co.'s gas and water. Separate hot-water system. Main drainage. Garages.

Chauffeur's accommodation of 5 rooms. Two modern cottages with 3 bedrooms, bath, sitting-room.

GROUNDS include wide-spreading lawns, tennis and fruit and vegetable gardens.

Orchard. **LAKE OF 8 1/2 ACRES** affording excellent bathing, boating and coarse fishing.

Woodland and Arable Land. **ABOUT 32 1/2 ACRES, FREEHOLD. VACANT POSSESSION on Completion.**

Hunting. Golf. Agents: Messrs. KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY, 20, Hanover Square, W.1. (41.372)

Mayfair 3771
10 lines

20, HANOVER SQUARE, LONDON, W.1.

WEST SURREY

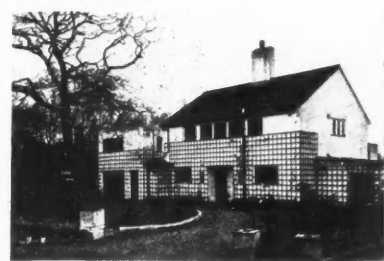
In a highly favoured residential area near the Wentworth Golf Courses. Station 1 mile (Waterloo 40 minutes).

LITTLE HOLLAND, VIRGINIA WATER.

A beautifully appointed freehold modern residence, well arranged and in excellent order throughout, constructed of white brick with cavity walls and red tiled roof, in a pleasant position, with outlook over wooded ridges. Entrance hall, 3 reception rooms, loggia, 6 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Compact offices. Co.'s electric light, power and water. Pine strip floors. Flush doors. Crittall windows. Built-in Garage.

Garden of about 1/2 ACRE, with paved terrace and patios, lawn, flower beds and borders. Vegetable garden, greenhouse. **Immediate Possession. To be OFFERED for SALE by AUCTION in the HANOVER SQUARE ESTATE ROOM, on THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, at 2.30 p.m. (unless previously sold).**

Solicitors: Messrs. PAISNER & CO., 39, Bedford Square, W.C.1. Auctioneers: KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY, 20, Hanover Square, W.1. and TYLER, GREENWOOD & CO. 386, High Road, Chiswick, W.4. Particulars, price 1s.



BETWEEN DORKING AND GUILDFORD

600 feet up. In glorious situation amidst lovely surroundings. Adjacent to village of Holmbury St. Mary. Magnificent views. Five minutes' walk from Dorking-Guildford bus service.

Picturesque modern well-appointed Residence in good repair.

Halls, cloak-room (h. & c.), 3 reception, 6 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 servants' rooms, offices with servants' sitting room.

Central heating. Company's electricity and power. Main water. Septic tank drainage. Telephone. Stabling. 3 garages. Chauffeur's flat. Cottage.

Delightfully arranged old-established Gardens.

Beautiful old timber and specimen trees, flowering shrubs, rock garden, formal fan-shaped flower garden, tennis and other lawns, kitchen garden. Terrace and woodland walks. Paddock.

About 8 1/2 ACRES. PRICE, FREEHOLD, with immediate possession, £12,750

Agents: Messrs. KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY, 20, Hanover Square, W.1. (19.279)



Tel-grams: "Galleries, Wesdo, London."

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NICHOLAS

(Established 1882)

4 ALBANY COURT YARD, PICCADILLY, W.1; 1, STATION ROAD, READING

Telegrams:

"Nichenyer, Piccy, London."
"Nicholas, Reading."

CHILTERN HILLS

Within 35 miles of London.

To be let furnished or unfurnished with or without shooting over **2,300 ACRES.**

This lovely old Country Seat standing in a finely timbered Park 500 feet above sea with glorious panoramic views.

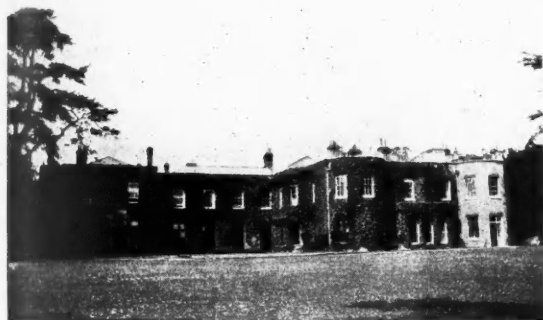
12 PRINCIPAL BEDROOMS, 3 DRESSING ROOMS, 7 BATHROOMS, 6 SERVANTS' BEDROOMS. A magnificent suite of Reception Rooms, mostly panelled in oak, especially suited for entertaining, including Hall, 40 ft. by 28 ft., Smoking Room, 40 ft. by 14 ft., two Libraries, Drawing Room, 30 ft. by 25 ft., Dining Room, 60 ft. by 25 ft. Excellent domestic offices.

ELECTRIC LIGHT. CENTRAL HEATING. MODERN DRAINAGE.

Ample garage accommodation and stabling. Lovely gardens.

The shoot is well known for its sporting character and high birds.

Sole Agents: Messrs. NICHOLAS, 4, Albany Court Yard, Piccadilly, W.1., and Reading.



44, ST. JAMES'S PLACE, S.W.1

JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK

Regent 0911
(2 lines)

By Direction of Trustees.

SYRESHAM HOUSE, Nr. BRACKLEY, Northamptonshire

Close to the village of Syresham, and about 4 miles from Brackley, 12 miles from Banbury.

Hunting obtainable with the Grafton, Whaddon Chase, also the Biceter Hounds. For Sale by Auction, in One Lot, at the London Auction Mart, 155, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.4, on Friday, February 1, 1946, at 2.30 p.m.



Vacant possession of main residence, stabling, garage and one cottage; the land is let. Accommodation: Hall and 4 sitting rooms, 10 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Main electricity and power, central heating, excellent water supply. Plenty of good modern stabling, garage for 3 cars, groom's room, 2 cottages (one only with possession). Charming pleasure grounds, walled garden with fruit trees, together with several enclosures and pasture (let). In all about **64 ACRES**

Illustrated particulars with plan (2s.) may be had from the Solicitors:

Messrs. HUNTERS, 9, New Square, Lincoln's Inn, W.C.2; or from the Auctioneers: Messrs. JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK, 44, St. James's Place, London, S.W.1.

By Direction of Executors. **NORTHDOWN, HEATHFIELD, Sussex**

3/4 mile from Heathfield Station, 13 miles from Tunbridge Wells, and 16 miles from Eastbourne. For Sale by Auction at the London Auction Mart, 155, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.4, on Tuesday, February 12, 1946, at 2.30 p.m. As a whole or in Lots as under:

Lot 1.—17th-century Residence with cottage, garages, grounds (with hard tennis court) and paddock of **NEARLY 9 ACRES** Vacant Possession.

Lot 2.—The adjoining Agricultural Holding, "Tanyard Farms," with farmhouse building and **21 ACRES (let)**

Lot 3.—Superior Bungalow, "Coolm," with nearly **2 ACRES (let)**

Lot 4.—A choice Enclosure of about 2 acres, with 500 feet frontage to main road (let with farm).

Accommodation of Lot 1 comprises: Hall and 3 sitting rooms, 7 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms.

All main services. The grounds are particularly nice and well timbered. Illustrated particulars with plan (2s.) may be had from the Solicitors: Messrs. O. H. SWANN & SON, Heathfield, Sussex; and from the Joint Auctioneers: Messrs. JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK, 44, St. James's Place, London, S.W.1; or Messrs. E. WATSON AND SONS, Heathfield, Sussex.





HAMPTON & SONS

6, ARLINGTON STREET, ST. JAMES'S, S.W.1

Regent 8222 (15 lines)

Telegrams: "Selaniet, Piccy, London"



WEST SUSSEX

Commanding a magnificent view of the South Downs; 5 miles from Main Electric line and 2 miles from well-known Golf Course.

FOR SALE

PICTURESQUE MODERN RESIDENCE

WITH ITS ACCOMMODATION ARRANGED ON TWO FLOORS

Lounge 30 feet long, Dining 23 ft. 6 in., Study, 8 bedrooms, bath dressing room, 2 other bathrooms.

COMPANY'S ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER. COMPANY'S WATER. AGA COOKER. GARAGE AND STABLING.

THE MATURED GROUNDS SLOPE TO THE SOUTH AND WERE LAID OUT BY A LANDSCAPE GARDENER, AND TOGETHER, WITH TWO PADDOCKS EXTEND

TO ABOUT 13½ ACRES

Joint Agents: MESSRS. RACKHAM & SMITH, 31, Carfax, Horsham (311) and HAMPTON & SONS, 6, Arlington Street, St. James's, S.W.1. (C.49.509.)

BERKS. SUNNINGHILL AREA

1½ miles from Sunningdale and Ascot Stations and within easy access of several noted golf courses.

COMMODIOUS GEORGIAN RESIDENCE



4 reception rooms, 15 bed and dressing rooms, 6 bathrooms, etc. All public services. Central heating.

BUNGALOW LODGE

Cottage. Stabling.

Garage with rooms for men. Well-established grounds, 2 hard tennis courts, walled kitchen garden, orchards, woods and grassland. In all over

20 ACRES

PRICE £15,000 FREEHOLD VACANT POSSESSION

Particulars from: HAMPTON & SONS, LTD., 6, Arlington Street, S.W.1. (Tel.: REG. 8222.) (B48,428)

BRANCH OFFICES: WIMBLEDON COMMON, S.W.19 (WIM 0081) BISHOPS STORTFORD (243)

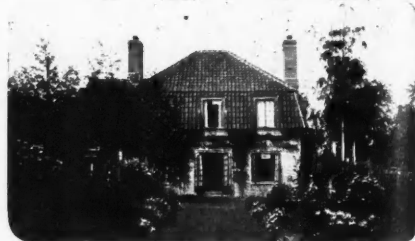
IN THE COBHAM DISTRICT

½ mile of station.

A PLEASANT MODERN RESIDENCE OF GOOD DESIGN

Hall, cloakroom, 3 reception rooms, 5 bedrooms, bathroom, maids room. Good offices. All main services.

GARAGE GARDEN WITH HARD TENNIS COURT, SHRUBBERY, ETC.



PRICE FREEHOLD £6,250

Apply Hampton & Sons, Ltd., 6, Arlington Street, St. James's, S.W.1. (Regent 8222.) (S51,617)

CLASSIFIED PROPERTIES

2/- per line (minimum 3 lines). Box Fee 1/6.

AUCTIONS

BALLYBRIDE, LONGDOWN ROAD, LOWER BOURNE, FARNHAM

Station and town just over a mile. 5 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, bathroom, usual offices. Garage. Company's water, electric light. Gas and main drainage. Well laid-out garden of HALF AN ACRE. Vacant possession on completion. WALLIS & WALLIS incorporating EYRE & CO., LEWES will SELL by AUCTION (unless sold privately in the meantime) at the BUSH HOTEL, FARNHAM, on MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1946, at 3 p.m.—Particulars and conditions of sale may be obtained from the Solicitors: Messrs. Potter Crundwell & Bridge, Farnham, or the Auctioneers: WALLIS & WALLIS, F.A.I., 146-7, High Street, Guildford.

By Order of Executors.

EPPING, ESSEX

The fine Georgian residence KENDAL LODGE in a quiet position with excellent views and very convenient for town. The accommodation includes 8 bedrooms, bathroom, lounge hall, 3 reception rooms, play-room and domestic offices, including maids' sitting room. Range of outbuildings with double garage, stabling and potting shed. Matured garden and paddock, 2½ ACRES. The property has a total frontage of 1,092 feet. Vacant possession will be given on completion of sale.

AMBROSE & SON

are favoured with instructions to offer the above by AUCTION at the COCK HOTEL, EPPING, on MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18, at 3.30 p.m. Particulars and conditions of sale may be obtained from the Solicitors: Messrs. Trotter, Sons & Chapman, Epping; the Auctioneers: AMBROSE & SON, 149, High Road, Loughton. (Tel.: Loughton 44.)

WILTSHIRE

"HAYBROOK," PEWSEY. Freehold charming compact Residence. 3 reception, 6 principal, 6 secondary bedrooms, 2 bath. Substantial stabling, garage. Lovely grounds of 7 ACRES. Also 24 ACRES ACCOMMODATION LAND close to town and station. Part under requisition. Present income £305 p.a. AUCTION, FEBRUARY 20.—Particulars from Auctioneer.

WM. RIDGWAY,

Salisbury Square House, E.C.4.

WANTED

HAMPSHIRE OR DORSET essential. Wanted to purchase, 12-15-bedroomed House of character. Not less than 500 acres, to take a dairy herd. Please send particulars to PEER, c/o Messrs. JOHN D. WOOD & Co., 83, Berkeley Square, London, W.1.

WANTED

EAST HORSLEY OR LEATHERHEAD (within easy reach of). Modern House with 5 bedrooms, etc. Property must be in good structural order, decoration not important. Price about £6,000.—Box 754.

SCOTLAND. Wanted on lease, West Coast preferred but not essential. Unfurnished Country House. 3-4 reception, 5-7 bedrooms, bath (h. & c.), 2 lavatories. Garage, outbuildings, garden, and 1 or 2 fields. Accommodation for gardener. Rough shooting essential, fishing an advantage.—Full particulars and photographs to Box 722.

WALES preferred. Colonel (ex-Regular) and wife wish to rent small unfurnished Dower House or similar within 5 miles good winter golf course. Long lease considered if terms reasonable.—Write: Box N.594, WILLINGS, 362, Gray's Inn Road, W.C.1.

WILTS, HANTS or SUSSEX preferably, but anywhere in the Southern Counties. Must be a house with character and be absolutely "up to the minute" in regard to fittings. 5-7 bedrooms, at least 3 reception rooms, some land if possible. A high price will be paid.—Send particulars to A. D. B., c/o WATTS AND SON, Chartered Surveyors, Wokingham, Berks (Tel. 123).

FOR SALE

IRELAND. Freehold residential, Agricultural and Sporting Estate. Beautifully situated mansion, 620 acres. Overlooking the Atlantic and Cork Harbour. Mansion containing large lounge hall, cloakroom, drawing room, dining room, library, billiard room, study, winter garden, 14 bedrooms and dressing rooms, bathrooms, service apartments, ample domestic offices. Suitable out-offices and garages attached. Electric light and heating. Excellent water supply. Home farm with fully equipped buildings for working agricultural land extending to over 500 acres. Steward's house, 2 gate lodges and 5 cottages. Boat-house and ample space for aeroplane landing.—HILLIER PARKER MAY & ROWDEN, 77, Grosvenor Street, W.1 (Mayfair 7666).

MIDDLESEX. STAINES. Opportunity to secure imposing well-appointed Freehold Residence, 35 minutes London. Overlooking river, 2 acres lovely grounds, fruit trees, flower gardens, fish-pond, greenhouses, tennis court, 2 conservatories, glass-roofed loggia, 6 beds, 4 reception, 2 bath, tiled kitchen, larders, butler's pantry, store-room, etc. Garage 4 cars. Gas fires all rooms, wash-basins best bedrooms. Entire house completely modern. Excellent condition. Would consider selling furnished part or carpeted. Price, unfurnished, £8,500.—Write: Box P.3628, SAMSON CLARES, 57-61, Mortimer Street, W.1.

FOR SALE

NORTHERN IRELAND. "Rathmoyrie," Helen's Bay, Co. Down. For sale by private treaty, this very choice and pleasantly situated property, convenient to the sea shore, consisting of a superbly-built residence, with garage and extensive out-offices, gate lodge, chauffeur's house, 4 cottages, and land with garden and pleasure grounds, containing in all about 65 acres, 2 roads, 38 perches, statute measure. The main house (vacant possession of which will be given) contains lounge hall, 3 reception rooms, billiard room, 4 principal bedrooms, 2 dressing rooms, 4 secondary bedrooms, bathroom and w.c., servants' and culinary apartments. Main electricity and water, also telephone, etc., installed.—For full particulars, and arrangements to view, apply: T. S. MARTIN & SON, Estate Agents, 12, College Square East, Belfast.

REDHILL 3 miles, with fast main-line trains to London (23 miles by road). XVth-century Farmhouse, standing high with lovely views, facing south. Beamed ceilings and walls, modernised throughout, main services, 2-3 reception, 4-5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, excellent domestic offices, also 3-room flat and extensive range of farm buildings (including fine barn 50 ft. by 30 ft.) surrounding yard. Small garden, tennis lawn, orchard and very productive vegetable garden, tomato house, etc. Paddock, 3 fields, copse, small wood, 3 ponds, all on southern slope with long road frontage and extending to about 20 acres. Vacant possession. Freehold, £7,750.—Further particulars: H. JOYCE & Co., 118, George Street, W.1.

SOUTH CORNWALL. Built regardless of cost. A splendid Stone Residence, tiled roof. Near sea, Golf, social club and, by car, yachting and fishing. Main line station 1 mile. Lovely garden and paddocks, 5-6 acres, with greenhouse, etc. Accommodation: vestibule, oak-panelled hall, cloakroom, 3 beautiful reception rooms, 5 bed and 2 bathrooms, hot rooms. Most convenient and modern domestic offices. All main services. Freehold. Price £9,000 or near offer, with vacant possession.—Apply: STOCKTON & PLUMSTEAD, Mawman, Falmouth. (Ref. 3010.)

WEST HERTS. on Chilterns 500 ft. above sea. Gentleman's Country Property in excellent order and with every convenience. 12 bed, 4 bath, galleried hall, 3 reception, well arranged offices. Main electricity and water and partial central heating. Beautifully disposed pleasure grounds and kitchen gardens. Garages, stabling and model farmery. 3 substantial cottages. About 55 acres in all (mainly pasture). Vacant possession. £12,500, freehold. Usual valuations.—MARTIN & POLE, 23, Markot Place, Reading.

FOR SALE

SHEPPERTON-ON-THAMES (one mile station). Genuine 19th-century Residence of great character, having wealth of old oak. Lounge hall, lounges, dining room, cocktail bar, 2 oak-panelled staircases, 5 bedrooms with built-in wardrobes, bathroom. Copious domestic offices. 1 acre, picturesque garden with 70 fruit trees, ornamental ponds, tennis court, summer-house, greenhouses, etc. Brick-built photographic dark-room. Large garage. All main services. Vacant possession. Price £6,500, freehold.—L. ST. J. STEADMAN, Surveyor and Estate Agent Commercial Rd., Woking (Tel.: Woking 1943)

SOUTH DEVON COAST. Lovely Torbay views and adjoining golf course. Attractive Modern Residence in acre garden, sloping towards beach. 25-ft. lounge, dining, study, kitchen, etc., 6 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. All electric. Central heating. Sun-trap windows. Telephone. Internal garage. £5,900, immediate occupation.—MURRAYS, 42, Longbrook Street, Exeter (Tel. 54113).

TO LET

BRECONSHIRE. By the direct of the Breconford. Right Hon. the Viscount of the Breconford. To be let unfurnished on lease, a medium-sized mansion standing 500 feet above sea level, at the foot of the Black Mountains, and containing: Hall, 4 reception rooms, 2 principal bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, ample accommodation. Central heating. First-class water supply. Garage. Stabling and outbuildings. Well maintained pleasure grounds. Walled kitchen garden. The sports ground, including 280 acres of woodland, and grouse moor of about 2,700 acres may be let with the mansion.—Full details from the Sole Agent: H. K. POSTER, Ltd., 129, St. Owens Street, Hereford.

WARWICKSHIRE. Luxurious furnished Self-contained Flat on a 40-acre magnificent hunting country with magnificent views, and within 10 miles of on-Avon, Leamington Spa and Banbury. comprising large lounge, dining-room, kitchen (electric cooker), bathroom (h. & c.), 3 bedrooms. Own gardens. Garage and stabling available. Home production. Terms, including central heating, £100 per week. References.—Box 757.

WORCESTERSHIRE. STATION. Birmingham 25 miles, Worcester 15. Tenbury Wells 10. To let from January 1, 1946, comprising 7 main reception rooms, 20 bedrooms, domestic offices, separate flat and 2 cottages, pleasure grounds, electric light, unfailing water.—Further particulars from the Agents: RUSSELL, BALDWIN & BRIGHT, LTD., Tenbury Wells.

Regent
4304

OSBORN & MERCER

MEMBERS OF THE CHARTERED SURVEYORS' AND AUCTIONEERS' INSTITUTES

28b, ALBEMARLE ST.,
PICCADILLY, W.1ADJOINING LOVELY COMMONS NEAR
DORKINGIn a glorious situation some 600 feet above sea level and facing
South.

CHARMING GEORGIAN STYLE MODERN HOUSE



Two floors only, with hall, 3 reception rooms, 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, usual offices, servants' sitting room.
Electric Light. Co.'s Water. Central Heating.
GARAGE FOR 3 CARS AND OTHER USEFUL
OUTBUILDINGS. MAGNIFICENTLY TIMBERED
GARDENS AND GROUNDS OF
ABOUT 4 ACRES

(More land might be purchased.)

For Sale Freehold £10,000

Agents: OSBORN & MERCER, as above. (17,614)

SURREY

About 20 miles of London in a splendid position some 400 ft.
above sea level. Within easy reach of station with excellent
electric train service.A WELL-BUILT MODERN HOUSE
ALL ON TWO FLOORS

with Hall, 3 reception rooms, 6 bedrooms, bathroom.
Co.'s water. Electric light. Two Garages.
The matured gardens are well timbered and include
lawns, flower gardens, kitchen garden, etc., in all

ABOUT 1½ ACRES

FOR SALE FREEHOLD WITH EARLY POSSESSION

Agents: OSBORN & MERCER, as above. (17,618)

GLOS AND HEREFORD BORDERS

In a splendid position, with views across the River Wye.

A DELIGHTFUL HOUSE OF GEORGIAN
CHARACTER

Salmon and Trout Fishing in the Wye

4 reception rooms, 10 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms.

Electric light, main water. Central heating.
2 Cottages (let). Garage, stabling.Pleasure gardens of about 2 acres, pasture, woodland, etc.,
in all about 18 ACRES.

FREEHOLD, ONLY £6,500

Agents: OSBORN & MERCER, as above. (17,610)

BUCKS

Between Aylesbury and Buckingham. Convenient
for Main Line Station to London.

Sheltered situation in rural country. For Sale.

An UP-TO-DATE COUNTRY HOUSE
OF CHARACTER.

Main electricity and water. Central heating.

Lounge hall, 3 reception, dozen bedrooms, 3 bathrooms.

Hunter Stabling. Farmery. 3 Cottages.

Very pleasant Gardens. Excellent pasture.

Hard Tennis Court. Squash Court.

24 ACRES

Agents: OSBORN & MERCER. Inspected and highly
recommended. (16,730)Grosvenor 1553
(4 lines)

GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS

(ESTABLISHED 1778)

25, MOUNT ST., GROSVENOR SQ., W.1

WEST SUSSEX—NEAR THE COAST

1½ miles from Market Town.

SUITABLE FOR GOOD-CLASS SCHOOL
OR COUNTRY HOTEL.

THE GEORGIAN MANXION contains:

6 large reception rooms, 25 bedrooms,
9 bathrooms, and has central heating
and main services.

LOWER HOUSE with 2 reception
rooms, bathroom, 5 bedrooms.

2 LODGES, 3 COTTAGES,
GROUNDS OF ABOUT

60 ACRES

include stabling, tennis courts, swim-
ming pool, squash court, and parkland.REASONABLE PRICE FOR
THE WHOLE

Price and full particulars from the Agents: GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS, 25, Mount Street, W.1. (C.2764)

3, MOUNT ST.,
LONDON, W.1

RALPH PAY & TAYLOR

Grosvenor
1032-33

SURREY

FINEST POSITION ON WENTWORTH

Favoured site on high ground. Southern exposure with lovely views. Handy for
Virginia Water Station.ARCHITECT DESIGNED RESIDENCE OF DISTINCTION
WITH ALL MODERN APPOINTMENTS

Delightfully planned accommodation contained on two floors only.
8 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms and hall, all with oak strip flooring.
Labour-saving offices.

MAIN ELECTRICITY, GAS AND WATER. CENTRAL HEATING THROUGHOUT
GARDENER'S UP-TO-DATE COTTAGE. GARAGE WITH FLAT OVER.
GARDENS OF EXCEPTIONAL BEAUTY WITH FASCINATING BROAD STONE
PAVED TERRACES AND RETAINING WALLS. CUMBERLAND STONE ROCK
GARDEN WITH WATER POOLS IN SERIES OF FALLS. PRODUCTIVE
KITCHEN GARDEN, ORCHARD, ETC., in all

ABOUT 5½ ACRES

FREEHOLD FOR SALE. POSSESSION BY ARRANGEMENT.

Confidently recommended by the Joint Sole Agents: Messrs. DRON & WRIGHT,
17, Coleman Street, E.C.2, and RALPH PAY & TAYLOR, 3, Mount Street, W.1.104, BROMPTON ROAD
LONDON, S.W.3.

BENTALL, HORSLEY & BALDRY

Kensington
0152-3CHOICE RESIDENTIAL FARM,
40 ACRES. NEAR HASTINGS

and favourite old Market Town. Rich grass
with 2 acres orchards. Attractive brick and
tile residence in garden with tennis lawn.
3 reception, 4 bed, bath (h. & c.). MAIN
ELECTRIC LIGHT AND CO.'S WATER.
Good dairy buildings. Present owner
30 years. Just available with possession.

Asking £5,750 FREEHOLD. A purchaser
could retain 15 ACRES with the house to
form a most attractive holding and let off
25 acres.

BENTALL, HORSLEY & BALDRY,
104, Brompton Road, S.W.3 (Ken. 0152).GREAT BARGAIN. BERKS
Near Maidenhead
BEAUTIFUL GEORGIAN HOUSE

High up in lovely setting.
4 reception, billiards, 8 bed (also 5 in
separate wing), 3 baths. Garaging for 5.
Stabling. Cottage. Main water and
electricity. Drainage. The whole in perfect
order and in fine character.
Lovely old English gardens, beautiful timber.
Walled gardens, hard tennis court, paddock.

12 ACRES
IMMEDIATE POSSESSION.
FREEHOLD, ONLY £12,500
A certain amount of Furniture, etc., could
be purchased if desired.

BENTALL, HORSLEY & BALDRY,
104, Brompton Road, S.W.3 (Ken. 0152).BARGAIN NEAR TIVERTON
LOVELY PART OF DEVON

PICTURESQUE OLD-WORLD FARM-
HOUSE, dating sixteenth century. 2
sitting rooms, offices, 5 bedrooms. Gravita-
tion water. Main electricity. Shortly
available. Excellent outbuildings, and
about 18 ACRES

POSSESSION. FREEHOLD £3,750

BENTALL, HORSLEY & BALDRY,
104, Brompton Road, S.W.3.GENTLEMAN'S FARM
BARGAIN

SALISBURY (easy reach of).

420 ACRES rich vale pastures and upland
grass in ring fence. Excellent for pedigree
stock. Superior house (3 reception, 7 bed
bath) in splendid condition. Fine range of
buildings and cottage.

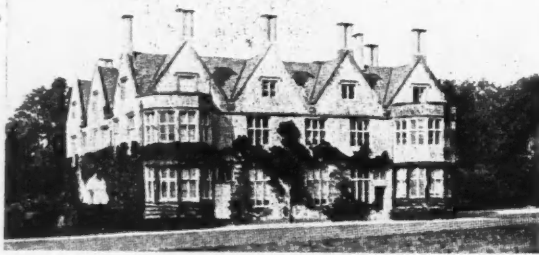
FREEHOLD ONLY £9,500
with early possession.BENTALL, HORSLEY & BALDRY,
104, Brompton Road, S.W.3 (Ken. 0152).

23, MOUNT ST.,
GROSVENOR SQ., LONDON, W.1

WILSON & CO.

Grosvenor
1441

LOVELY JACOBAN HOUSE IN DORSET



A PERIOD HOUSE OF RARE CHARM in its own estate of **800 ACRES**. In a wonderful state of preservation with all its original features intact yet completely modernised. Many panelled rooms, choice fireplaces, etc. Radiators throughout. Electricity, etc. 9 principal bedrooms, 8 bathrooms, staff quarters, fine hall and 4 reception. Stabling, garages. Cottages. Beautiful old-world gardens and finely timbered park. Would be sold with **about 50 ACRES**.
Sole Agents: WILSON & Co., 23, Mount Street, W.1.

Preliminary Announcement.

ASHLEY COURT ESTATE NEAR TIVERTON

For sale by auction in lots if not sold privately meantime. **ASHLEY COURT**. A delightful Old Georgian House (at present requisitioned) overlooking the valley of the Exe. 10 bedrooms, bathroom, 3 reception rooms. Electric light, etc. Long drive. Entrance lodge. Stabling. Garages. Finely timbered grounds. Walled kitchen garden. Orchard and pasture. **ABOUT 20 ACRES**. Ashley Court Cottage. A very charming small country house in perfect order and beautifully decorated. Few but large rooms, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, 2 reception rooms. Garden and orchard. Over an acre. Early possession. Useful small Farms and other Holdings and Cottages. Total area about **55 ACRES**. Auctioneers: RICEARD GREEN & MICHELMORE, Exeter, and WILSON & CO., 23, Mount Street, London, W.1.

LEICESTERSHIRE, MELTON MOWBRAY
First-rate position for Hunting. Centre of the Quorn. Convenient for Cottesmore, Belvoir, and the Fernie. 4 miles Melton, easy access Leicester.
CHARMING OLD HOUSE with modern conveniences. Central heating. Main electricity. 7 best bedrooms, fitted basins hot and cold and good secondary and staff rooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 reception. Stalling for 12. Good groom's accommodation. Garages. Excellent cottage. Inexpensive garden and paddocks. **15 ACRES. Price £8,000**. Immediate possession.
Agents: WILSON & Co., 23, Mount St., W.1.

GENUINE GEORGIAN HOUSE

*Under 20 miles west of London.
Perfectly rural.*

In beautiful order. On two floors only, with finely proportioned rooms, 10 bedrooms, 5 baths, 4 fine reception. All main services. Central heating. Stabling, garage. Splendid cottage. Lovely pleasure grounds and miniature park.

FOR SALE WITH 20 ACRES

Agents: WILSON & Co., 23, Mount St., W.1.

F. L. MERCER & CO.

SACKVILLE HOUSE, 40, PICCADILLY, W.1

Regent 2481

OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO THE SAILING ENTHUSIAST ON THE HAMBLE RIVER WITH ITS OWN PRIVATE SLIPWAY



A FINE MODERN RESIDENCE

with 3 reception rooms, ballroom for dancing, all with parquet floors, 7 bedrooms (fitted wash-basins), 3 tiled bathrooms.

CENTRAL HEATING. MAIN SERVICES.

6-CAR GARAGE. KENNELS.

REALLY DELIGHTFUL GARDENS, SLOPING TO THE RIVER.

PRODUCTIVE ORCHARD AND PADDOCK.

AN INTERESTING FEATURE IS A MODEL RAILWAY HALF A MILE LONG.



PRICE, FREEHOLD, £10,000

WITH IMMEDIATE POSSESSION

F. L. MERCER & Co., 40, Piccadilly, W.1 (Tel.: Reg. 2481)

And at
ALDERSHOT

ALFRED PEARSON & SON

FLEET, HANTS. Tel.: 118

And at
FARNBOROUGH

IDEAL FOR SCHOOL OR HOTEL

PETERSFIELD DISTRICT. Well-built Georgian residence having 21 bed and dressing rooms, 2 bathrooms, fine hall, cloakroom, 4 reception rooms and modern domestic offices. Double entrance lodge. Easily managed garden and pastureland in all **29½ ACRES**. Price **£8,500, FREEHOLD**, with possession of residence, lodge, and 13½ acres.

SURREY. High position in much-favoured residential neighbourhood only ½ mile station with electric train service to London. Secluded modern residence facing south. 4 bedrooms, bathroom, cloakroom, 2 reception rooms, heated conservatory, etc. Garage. Main services. Attractive garden and woodland, in all **5½ ACRES**. **FREEHOLD, £5,000.**

RESIDENTIAL AND SPORTING ESTATE OF 128 ACRES

9½ miles London, 1¼ miles Station and 4 miles Sea.

THE Elizabethan-style Residence has all modern conveniences and stands in inexpensive grounds. It enjoys seclusion and has extensive views. 10 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 reception rooms, chauffeur's flat, 3 cottages. Farm Buildings together with pasture, arable and woodland **FREEHOLD, £15,000**, with possession.

WANTED. The agents are receiving a large number of enquiries for country properties in Southern England, particularly with farm lands attached. Owing to the return of their staff from the Forces almost immediate inspections can now be undertaken. Usual commission required.

FLEET. On high ground in the best residential part.

Well built residence with southern aspect, enjoying extensive views and fitted with central heating and labour-saving conveniences. 5 principal bedrooms, each with lavatory basins, 2 secondary bedrooms, bathroom, 3 reception rooms, cloakroom, pantry and light kitchen. Double garage. The garden is easily maintained, being partly in its natural state of heather and woodland; **1 ACRE. £5,500, FREEHOLD**, with very early possession.

GUILDFORD. Modern Residence in favourite residential town enjoying uninterrupted views. 4 bedrooms, bathroom, cloakroom, 2 reception rooms, etc. Garage. All main services. Nicely laid-out garden. With immediate possession. Price **£4,500, FREEHOLD.**

TRESIDDER & CO., 77, South Audley St., W.1

Grosvenor 2861. Telegrams: "Cornishmen, London."

SUITABLE FOR SCHOOL, NURSING HOME, RESIDENCE, ETC. £4,500 BERKS. 1¼ miles Ascot Station. **WELL-BUILT COUNTRY HOUSE**, in good order. Hall, 4 reception, 2 bathrooms, 11 bedrooms. All main services. Central heating. Telephone. Garage. Gardens and woodland. From **4-5 ACRES**. 42 years' lease at £45 p.a. Inspected and recommended.—TRESIDDER & Co., 77, South Audley Street, W.1. (22,368)

SURREY HILLS. Favourite residential district, within easy reach of electric trains, bus services, etc. **CHARMING BRICK AND TILED RESIDENCE.** Lounge hall, 3 reception rooms, 2 bathrooms (1 with shower), 6 bedrooms. Main services. Telephone. 2 garages. Well-disposed gardens, in all about **¾ ACRE**, all in good order. **PRICE, FREEHOLD, £6,000.** Inspected and recommended.—TRESIDDER & Co., 77, South Audley Street, W.1. (22,378)

YORKS. BEST PART OF HARROGATE. Part of ancient forest of **KNARESBOROUGH. EXCELLENT ARCHITECT-BUILT RESIDENCE** in fine condition. Oak-panelled hall, 3 good reception, modern service quarters, 4 bathrooms, 7 bedrooms. All main services. Telephone. Central heating. Garage for two. Chauffeur's quarters. Magnificently timbered, attractive and easily kept grounds intersected by stream with waterfalls, 8 bridges. Kitchen and fruit garden and paddock. **£6,750** for early sale of this exceptional **FREEHOLD PROPERTY**, with vacant possession.—TRESIDDER & Co., 77, South Audley Street, W.1. (22,436)

£5,000

BERKS. Between Reading and Newbury, mile station, nearly 400 ft. up, outskirts village. **COMFORTABLE SMALL HOUSE**, 3-4 reception, bath, 6 b.d. Main electricity and water, Aga cooker, Telephone, Garage. Attractive gardens **1 ACRE**. Further acre orchard available.—TRESIDDER & Co., 77, South Audley St., W.1. (22,435).

WELLESLEY-SMITH & CO.

17, BLAKE VE STREET, READING. Reading 2920 & 4112

"A MOST FAIRY-BOOK PLACE MELLOWED BY HALF A HUNDRED ELIZABETHAN SUMMERS"



BERKS. SMALL ELIZABETHAN MANOR of great charm and in excellent order.

3 sitting, cloaks, 7 bedrooms (baths h. & c.), 3 bathrooms. Exposed beams and open fireplaces. Gas electricity and water. Fine old barn. Lovely garden and paddock, about **3½ ACRES**

FREEHOLD, £8,750.

Inspected by WELLESLEY-SMITH, as above.

JOSEPH LOWRY & SONS, M.I.A.A.

RESIDENTIAL HOLDINGS AND FARMS from 30 to 800 ACRES
FOR SALE

HOUSES FOR LETTING IN HUNTING, FISHING AND SHOOTING DISTRICTS.

Auctioneers, etc., KILLS, Co. MEATH 'Phone 4

Telegrams:
"Wood, Agent, Wesdo,
London."

JOHN D. WOOD & CO.

23, BERKELEY SQUARE, LONDON W.1

Mayfair 6341
(10 lines)

FOR SALE WITH VACANT POSSESSION BETWEEN HASLEMERE AND HINDHEAD

PICTURESQUE RESIDENCE, 660 FT. UP, FACING SOUTH

with views of the South Downs, approached by drive, it contains vestibule, lounge hall, dining room, large drawing room, 10-12 bed and dressing rooms, 2 bath, ample offices, etc.

COMPANY'S WATER AND ELECTRIC LIGHT.

Central heating. Modern drainage. Garage, workshop, or playroom with rooms over. Outbuildings, etc. Inexpensive Garden with grass tennis lawn, orchard, herbaceous and kitchen gardens.

For Sale with about

19 ACRES

sloping away from the Residence on all sides. All in their own natural state, and amongst the Woodland walks and rides are a large number of Scotch and Douglas fir, spruce, oak, heather, etc.

GOLF COURSES AT HINDHEAD, WEST SURREY, AND LIPHOOK.

Further particulars of the Sole Agents: Messrs. JOHN D. WOOD & Co., 23, Berkeley Square, London, W.1. (20,691)



ON A COMMON NEAR RICHMOND PARK

A REALLY UNIQUE FREEHOLD HOUSE

(Dating from 1745)

AND GARDEN OCCUPYING AN ISLAND SITE

3 sitting rooms, 4 suites of bedroom and bathroom, 3 other bedrooms and 1 bathroom.

ALL MAIN SERVICES. CENTRAL HEATING THROUGHOUT.

Fine Oak Panelling on ground floor.

Detached Stabling and Garage with Flat of 5 rooms and bathroom over.

All in first-class condition and ready to walk into.

£12,500 FREEHOLD

JOHN D. WOOD & Co., 23, Berkeley Square, London, W.1.

(22,370)



FOR SALE WITH VACANT POSSESSION BASINGSTOKE 6 MILES

1 mile from Main Line Station and on bus route.



Inspected and recommended by JOHN D. WOOD & Co.

LOVELY QUEEN ANNE HOUSE

with 9 bedrooms, dressing room, 2 bathrooms, sitting hall, 3 reception rooms.

Central heating.

Main electricity and water.

Beautifully timbered grounds and parklike land.

Walled kitchen garden.

Stabling and garage.

In all about

10½ ACRES

5-roomed modern cottage occupied on service tenancy.

PRICE £10,000

(61,024)

VACANT POSSESSION.

Station 1 mile.

This attractive House in beautiful order 300 feet up with extensive views over the Shuckburgh Vale.

13 bed, 4 bath, 4 reception, sitting hall, model offices. Main electricity and water. Central heating throughout.

Hunter stabling for 11 and flat over. Garage for 5. Inexpensive grounds.

HOME FARM

which carries a pedigree Guernsey herd. Farmhouse and good buildings.

£18,000 WITH 66 ACRES, OR £14,500 WITH 26 ACRES

Recommended by JOHN D. WOOD & Co., 23, Berkeley Square, W.1.

(5,357)



FAREBROTHER, ELLIS & CO.

Central
9344/5/6/7

(Established 1799)
AUCTIONEERS. CHARTERED SURVEYORS. LAND AGENTS.
29, FLEET STREET, LONDON, E.C.4

Telegrams:
"Farebrother, London"

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Convenient for Station. London 23 miles.

A HOUSE OF CHARACTER

7 bedrooms, dressing room, 2 bathrooms, 4 reception rooms.

CAPACIOUS OFFICES.

2 GARAGES.

COMPANIES' WATER.

ELECTRIC LIGHT AND GAS.

MODERN DRAINAGE.



MOST ATTRACTIVE GARDENS

affording ample protection.

The whole extending to about

3¼ ACRES

Vacant Possession

March 25, 1946.

TO BE SOLD

FREEHOLD

£9,000

(Subject to Contract).

Further Particulars from the Agents: FAREBROTHER, ELLIS & CO., 29, Fleet Street, E.C.4. Telephone: Central 9344.

TOTTENHAM COURT RD., W.1
(Euston 7000)

MAPLE & Co., LTD.

5, GRAFTON ST., MAYFAIR, W.1
(Regent 4685)

NORFOLK LODGE, KINGSWOOD, SURREY

A really choice property situate in a much-sought-after district near several golf courses, including the Walton Heath course, 800 ft. up.

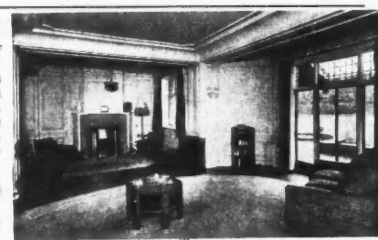
The Residence has a very fine interior with all modern conveniences and is approached by a drive with very nice lodge at the entrance. Accommodation includes: Fine oak-panelled hall, most attractive drawing room, dining room, morning room, billiards room, loggia, 8 bedrooms, dressing room, 3 modern bathrooms, also 2 bedrooms for maids. Very efficient CENTRAL HEATING, ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER. Two Garages, Stabling, and excellent flat.

FINE GARDENS OF ABOUT 4½ ACRES

Tennis and other lawns, lily pool, rose gardens, productive kitchen gardens, etc.

For SALE by AUCTION at WINCHESTER HOUSE, OLD BROAD STREET (unless previously sold).

Joint Auctioneers: Messrs. HARRIE STACEY & SON, F.A.I. Gresham Buildings, Redhill; and MAPLE & Co., LTD., 5, Grafton Street, Old Bond Street, W.1



5, MOUNT ST.,
LONDON, W.1

CURTIS & HENSON

Grosvenor 3131 (3 lines)
Established 1875

BUCKS

30 miles from London. Adjoining an Old-World Village.

DIGNIFIED XVth CENTURY MANOR HOUSE



VACANT POSSESSION ON COMPLETION.

13 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms,
3 spacious reception rooms.

Main electric light, gas
and water. Central heating.

Independent hot water.

Lovely old gardens and
timbered park. Groom's
house and 4 charming
cottages.

FREEHOLD FOR SALE WITH 34 ACRES. PRICE £14,000

CURTIS & HENSON, as above.

WITHIN EASY REACH OF CHELTENHAM AND BROADWAY

Beautiful position. South-west aspect.

A DELIGHTFUL OLD HOUSE

Nobly proportioned rooms
14 ft. high. 15 bedrooms,
3 bathrooms, hall, fine suite
of reception rooms. Main
electric light and power.
Garages. Stabling.
2 Lodges. Cottage.
Magnificently timbered old
garden. Miniature park.

IN A RING FENCE.

Nearly 30 ACRES



FREEHOLD FOR SALE WITH POSSESSION

Sole Agents: CURTIS & HENSON, as above.

LOFTS & WARNER

41, BERKELEY SQ., LONDON, W.1. Gro. 3056

HERTFORDSHIRE

South aspect. Near Village. Convenient for Hatfield and Hertford, to which there is an hourly bus service.

Only 18 miles from London yet completely rural.

DELIGHTFUL OLD GEORGIAN RESIDENCE

ENTRANCE HALL. 6 RECEPTION ROOMS. 17 BED and DRESSING ROOMS. 4 BATHROOMS.

Ample Domestic Offices, including Servants' Hall.

CENTRAL HEATING. ELECTRICITY BY PRIVATE PLANT. MODERN DRAINAGE.
GARAGE. STABLING. 5 COTTAGES. FARM LANDS AND BUILDINGS.

One mile of Trout Fishing in River Lee, which intersects the Gardens and Grounds. Walled and Kitchen Garden. Grassland and Woodland, extending in all to

234 ACRES

FREEHOLD FOR SALE.

VACANT POSSESSION.

For further particulars apply to LOFTS & WARNER, 41, Berkeley Square, W.1. (Tel.: Grosvenor 3056.)

Station Rd. East,
Oxted, Surrey
Oxted 240

NEAR SEVENOAKS

Enjoying perfect seclusion. Close to a village.



THIS VERY ATTRACTIVE COUNTRY HOUSE.

Large hall, 11 bedrooms, 4 reception, 4 bathrooms,
good domestic offices. Main services. Garages. Outbuild-
ings. 2 cottages. GARDENS AND GROUNDS 15 ACRES.

PRICE FREEHOLD £12,750.

Illustrated particulars of the Sole Agents: IBBETT,
MOSELY, CARD & CO., 125, High St., Sevenoaks
(Tel. 2247/8); and at Oxted and Reigate, Surrey.

IBBETT, MOSELY, CARD & CO.

125, High St., Sevenoaks, Kent Sevenoaks 2247-8

45, High St., Reigate,
Surrey

Reigate 2938

£4,500. LIMPSFIELD, SURREY. Daily reach of
London. A Capital Freehold Residence containing 7 bed-
rooms, bathroom, 3 reception rooms and good offices.
Central heating. GARAGE and GROUNDS of **ONE**
ACRE. Sunny south aspect. **VACANT POSSESSION.**

Apply: IBBETT, MOSELY, CARD & CO., Oxted, Surrey
(Tel. 240)

£6,500. BEAUTIFUL PART OF SURREY within daily
reach of Town. A charming EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY
HOUSE, standing in grounds of **2 ACRES** (4 acres if
desired), OVERLOOKING A PARK, 8 bedrooms,
2 bathrooms, 4 reception rooms, etc. **FREEHOLD.**

Apply: IBBETT, MOSELY, CARD & CO., Oxted,
Surrey (Tel. 240).

£7,500. OXTED, SURREY—adjoining LIMPSFIELD
COMMON. Attractive **FREEHOLD RESIDENCE** con-
taining 6 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, dressing room, 3 reception
rooms, etc. Double garage. **2 ACRES** of GROUNDS
including tennis court. **SOUTH ASPECT** with MAG-
NIFICENT VIEWS. **FREEHOLD.**

Apply: IBBETT, MOSELY, CARD & CO., Oxted, Surrey
(Tel. 240).

A CHOICE RESIDENCE

Full south aspect with distant views. 18 miles London.



MERTHAM, SURREY CHARMING MODERN
RESIDENCE, excellent order throughout, on two floors,
very easily maintained. 6 beds. (each fitted basin, h. & c.).
bathroom, 3 reception, compact domestic offices. Garage.
Main services. Inexpensive grounds. **TENNIS LANE.**
SWIMMING POOL, kitchen garden and small paddock, all
about **1½ ACRES.** **FREEHOLD** for sale privately, or by
Auction, Feb. 27, 1946. **VACANT POSSESSION.** IBBETT,
MOSELY, CARD & CO., 45, High St., Reigate (Tel. 2938).

BLACKMORE VALE CENTRE

TO LET OR SELL WITH VACANT POSSESSION

WILLIAM AND MARY MANSION

Ven. near Sherborne, Dorset.



Fine hall, 5 reception rooms,
16 bedrooms, complete
domestic offices.

ELECTRIC LIGHT.
CENTRAL HEATING.
GOOD WATER.

Fine trees and grounds.

Stabling, garages, paddocks.

Further particulars from EDENS, Estate Offices, Sherborne, Dorset.

EWBANK & CO.

WEYBRIDGE & COBHAM

"ADROGUE," WEYBRIDGE

On St. George's Hill.

ATTRACTIVE CHARAC-
TER RESIDENCE in
pretty setting. Close Golf
and Tennis Clubs. 7 bed
and dressing rooms, 4 bath-
rooms, 3 fine reception
rooms, complete offices.
Main services. Stabling.
Garage. Chauffeur's Bungal-
ow. Delightful grounds
about **3½ ACRES.** Vacant
Possession.



By AUCTION at WEYBRIDGE, FEBRUARY 27, 1946 (unless sold privately)

Auctioneers: EWBANK & CO., Weybridge and Cobham.

ESTATE

Kensington 1490

Telegrams:

Estate, Harrods, London."

HARRODS

34-36, HANS CRESCENT, LONDON, S.W.1.

OFFICES

Surrey Offices:

West Byfleet
and HaslemereFINE POSITION, NEAR WOKING c.2
On high ground with extensive views to Merrow Down and Hog's Back.MODERN HOUSE
OF QUEEN ANNE DESIGN

Reception rooms, billiards room, 9 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 sitting rooms. All main services. Fitted basins in 6 bedrooms. Complete central heating. Garage for 2 cars. Cottage (with bathroom). SECLUDED GROUNDS of about

3½ ACRES

FREEHOLD, £12,000

HARRODS LTD., 34-36, Hans Crescent, S.W.1.
(Tel.: Kensington 1490. Extn. 809; and Byfleet 149.)ADJOINING LEATHERHEAD GOLF c.2
COURSE WITH DIRECT ACCESS
THERETO*On a bus route between 2 stations with electric service to Town*

COMFORTABLE AND ATTRACTIVE RESIDENCE. 2 reception and billiard room, 6 bedrooms, bath-dressing-room and 2 other bathrooms. Maids' sitting-room. Main services. Central heating. Garage with 3 rooms over. Grounds and woodland about 4 ACRES.

FREEHOLD, £8,850

VACANT POSSESSION.

HARRODS LTD., 34-36, Hans Crescent, S.W.1.
(Tel.: Kensington 1490. Extn. 809.)REDHILL AND CRAWLEY c.3*Convenient situation only about 40 mins. Town by frequent service.*

WELL-APPOINTED RESIDENCE

Oak-panelled hall, 3 receptions, 6 beds., bathroom, main services.
2 BUNGALOWS, GARAGE, LOVELY GARDEN AND GROUNDS, extending in all to about

1¼ ACRES.

FOR SALE FREEHOLD. REASONABLE PRICE

HARRODS LTD., 34-36, Hans Crescent, S.W.1. (Tel.: Kensington 1490. Extn. 807.)

CROCKHAM HILL, EDENBRIDGE, KENT c.4

Three reception rooms, billiard room, 10 to 12 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Garage for 4 cars. Main water and electricity, central heating. Splendid domestic offices. Garden of 1½ ACRES. Possession. Suitable for conversion into three flats.

Price about £5,000.

HARRODS LTD., 34-36, Hans Crescent, S.W.1.
(Tel.: Kensington 1490. Extn. 806.)HARROW-ON-THE-HILL c.4*Highest point. Extensive views.*

SOLIDLY CONSTRUCTED RESIDENCE

Hall, 3 reception rooms, billiard room, 10 or 12 bed and dressing-rooms, 2 bathrooms. Complete offices.

COMPANIES' MAINS. CENTRAL HEATING. TELEPHONE. TWO GARAGES. OUTBUILDINGS.

DELIGHTFUL GROUNDS, fruit and vegetable garden, tennis court, nut walks, etc.,

In all 2¾ ACRES

£10,500. FREEHOLD

EARLY POSSESSION.

HARRODS LTD., 34-36, Hans Crescent, Knightsbridge, S.W.1. (Tel.: Kensington 1490. Extn. 806.)

SUNNY SUSSEX COAST c.2*Within 250 yards of the Sea and convenient to Golf Course.*

EXCEPTIONALLY MODERN LABOUR-SAVING HOUSE. 2 reception, 6 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. All main services. Garage. A delightful but inexpensive garden.

FREEHOLD, £6,500

VACANT POSSESSION.

Sole Agents: HARRODS LTD., 34-36 Hans Crescent, S.W.1.
(Tel.: Kensington 1490. Extn. 809.)SOUTHERN SLOPE OF THE c.2
QUANTOCKS*In one of the most beautiful villages imaginable. Panoramic Views.*

MODERN WELL-PLANNED HOUSE. Exceptionally well fitted throughout. 2 reception, 6 bedrooms, bathroom, maids' sitting-room. Main water and electricity. Washbasins in all bedrooms. Garage. Matured gardens of about 1¼ ACRES.

FREEHOLD, £8,700

VACANT POSSESSION.

HARRODS LTD., 34-36, Hans Crescent, Knightsbridge S.W.1.
(Tel.: Kensington 1490. Extn. 809.)WITHIN FEW MINUTES' WALK OF c.45
RIVER AT STRAND ON THE GREEN

WELL-APPOINTED RESIDENCE

Lounge hall, 3 reception, inner hall, 8 bedrooms, bathroom. All main services. Garage with rooms over. Conservatory.

WELL-LAID-OUT GARDEN WITH LAWNS, FLOWER BEDS, FRUIT TREES, ETC., IN ALL ABOUT HALF AN ACRE

FOR SALE, FREEHOLD, £7,500

EARLY POSSESSION.

Further particulars of the Joint Agents: HARRODS LTD., 34-36, Hans Crescent, Knightsbridge, S.W.1. (Tel.: Kensington 1490. Extn. 810), and MESSRS. TYSER, GREENWOOD & Co., Chiswick, W.

ARKLEY, NEAR BARNET c.2/5*Convenient for Station and close to bus route.*

WELL PLACED AND ATTRACTIVE MODERN HOUSE

In first-class order and condition inside and out. Oak panelled lounge hall, 3 good reception rooms (two cedar panelled), 5 bedrooms (fitted basins), 2 well-fitted bathrooms, maids' sitting-room. All main services. Central heating. Double garage. Gardens and Grounds about ONE ACRE

FREEHOLD, £7,000

HARRODS LTD., 34-36, Hans Crescent, Knightsbridge, S.W.1.
(Tel.: Kensington 1490. Extn. 809.)BORDERS OF HERTS AND ESSEX c.34*On the outskirts of a picturesque village, about 3 miles from Bishop's Stortford.*

A COUNTRY HOME OF DISTINCTION

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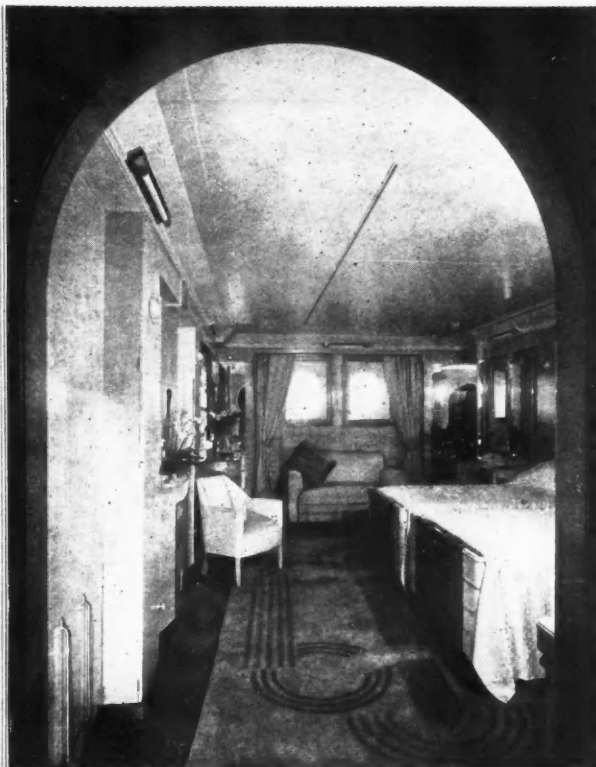
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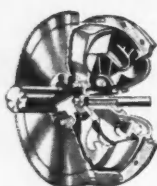
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COUNTRY LIFE

Vol. XCIX. No. 2558

JANUARY 25, 1946



Harlip

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Mrs. Cazenove, who is the only daughter of the late Mr. Cyril E. Martineau and of Mrs. Martineau, 35, Sloane Avenue, S.W., and a cousin of the late President Roosevelt, nursed at St. Thomas's Hospital all through the war. Her marriage to Flight-Lieutenant Peter F. Cazenove, Auxiliary Air Force, only son of Major and Mrs. Percy Cazenove of New Hall, Thorpe-le-Soken, Essex, took place last November.

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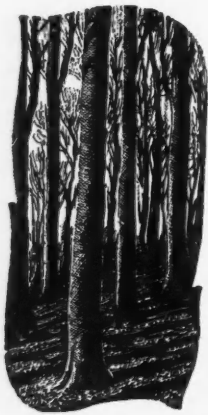
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FARM LABOUR PROBLEMS

THOUGH the wage question looms large at the moment in the discussion of agricultural problems, it is by no means necessarily the decisive factor it might seem to be in deciding whether or not the industry will continue to be able to control or attract sufficient labour. The chief factors at the moment are likely to prove the progressive disappearance of prisoner-of-war labour, and the difficulty of implementing with the materials and personnel at the Government's disposal a policy of civilising rural existence which will really satisfy those who are coming back to the land and appeal to those who wish to start a career on it. Between these short-term and long-term factors is the rate of release from the Forces. Under the Class B block release arrangements it was some time ago arranged to release 10,000 men taken from agriculture, and it is now announced that authority has been given for the release of another 8,000. But this is nothing like enough if we are to be prepared to meet all contingencies. The number of prisoners now allocated to agriculture in England and Wales alone is nearly 100,000, and it is quite clear that they cannot be retained indefinitely—indeed, so far the Government has made no definite promise to keep them for employment after the next harvest.

Meanwhile, the effects of slowness of release from the Forces are being aggravated by other considerations. In order to accelerate the release of older men, it is now necessary to call up for military service considerable numbers of young men born in or after 1915 who have been retained in civil life, and it has now been decided that agriculture should make an additional contribution of the order of 5,000 men. Deferments already granted are to be reviewed and a larger proportion of young men who reach the age of eighteen this year are to be called up. Though the review of deferments is to be conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture and the War Executive Committees in concert, it cannot but reduce the net balance of current releases over intake. At the same time complaint is being made that the farms are losing men quite unnecessarily on medical grounds, owing to the issue of certificates by doctors to men recommending them for lighter work. These men, it is said, have been sheltered in agriculture during the war and are ridding themselves of their responsibilities on medical grounds.

The long-term problem is even more important, and though it is satisfactory to find the Minister of Agriculture declaring that the provision of rural houses with good sanitation,

water, and electricity services is fundamental to the success of any policy that any Government might announce, there are hardly sufficient signs that Government achievement in these directions is likely to be rapid or effectively directed. The earlier declarations of the Minister of Health have been whittled down since his early days and it is quite clear that the Ministry of Agriculture has been exerting a good deal of pressure on other departments with the idea of getting the whole question of rural housing considered from a practical standpoint of maintaining agricultural production rather than of vindicating political theories. From this point of view the calling together of the Hobhouse Committee to present a new report on the subject probably indicates some realisation of the seriousness of the situation and may even foreshadow a change of heart. But the Hobhouse Committee can have little to say to-day that they have not already said in their Report of 1943, and if their recommendations with regard to local organisation of plans and building are followed, that will lead to the most rapid overtaking of current needs that can be envisaged. Those recommendations are substantially based on the part which the rural builder can play, both in serious reconditioning and in the building of small groups of cottages largely with local materials. The longer his activities are crippled by the keeping back of his key men with the Forces, or by mistaken ideas with regard to pooling of labour, the slower will progress be.

SNOW

THE Spring has not yet come.

The robin now is dumb
In the wind-raked tree;
A blue tit seeks for food
Within the barren wood,
Nor any song has he.
The Spring has not yet come,
The stricken earth is numb
And hardened into stone,
No movement stirs the sedge,
And at the pond's sharp edge
A heron stands alone.
Only the north wind moans
And raps the hollow bones
Of threadbare trees,
Till winging in its wake
The first unfurled snowflake
Comes floating down to ease
The armour of the cold,
The chains of frost that hold
The river and the wood.
Then from the pent-up sky
White whirling millions fly
Released in silent flood.

PHOEBE HESKETH.

ANIMAL HEALTH

ATTENTION has recently been called to the fact that in spite of the comprehensive nature of the Government's statement on agricultural policy, no word was said in it with regard to the improvement of animal health—though the toll which disease takes of the industry is everywhere recognised as disastrous. During the war the Ministry, by revising the conditions governing the licensing of bulls and encouraging milk recording, has taken at least two important steps in the direction of livestock improvement. The connection between the breeding of better and healthier herds and the current eradication of disease should be self-evident, and for the co-ordination to be effective we need not only more careful local supervision but a larger and better organised force of veterinary practitioners providing both advice and medical assistance, wherever it is required. Apart from state and local services, there are at present not more than 1,500 qualified surgeons in agricultural practice—a number which is far from adequate and needs urgently to be increased. The Loveday Committee on veterinary education produced proposals during the war which contemplate the turning out of 220 graduates each year from the veterinary colleges in place of the present 150, and this figure the Ministry apparently accepts as meeting immediate needs. But much time has been lost since the Committee reported by negotiations with regard to the required expan-

sions between the Royal College and the Universities. It is surely high time that an official statement was made on the subject, if only to reassure would-be entrants to the profession. The encouraging way in which the "panel" service for dairy cows has been received shows how much work is waiting to be done, for the panel contracts at present cover only 300,000 animals and there is no doubt that with more qualified veterinary surgeons available the number could be doubled.

THE COLOURED BUSES

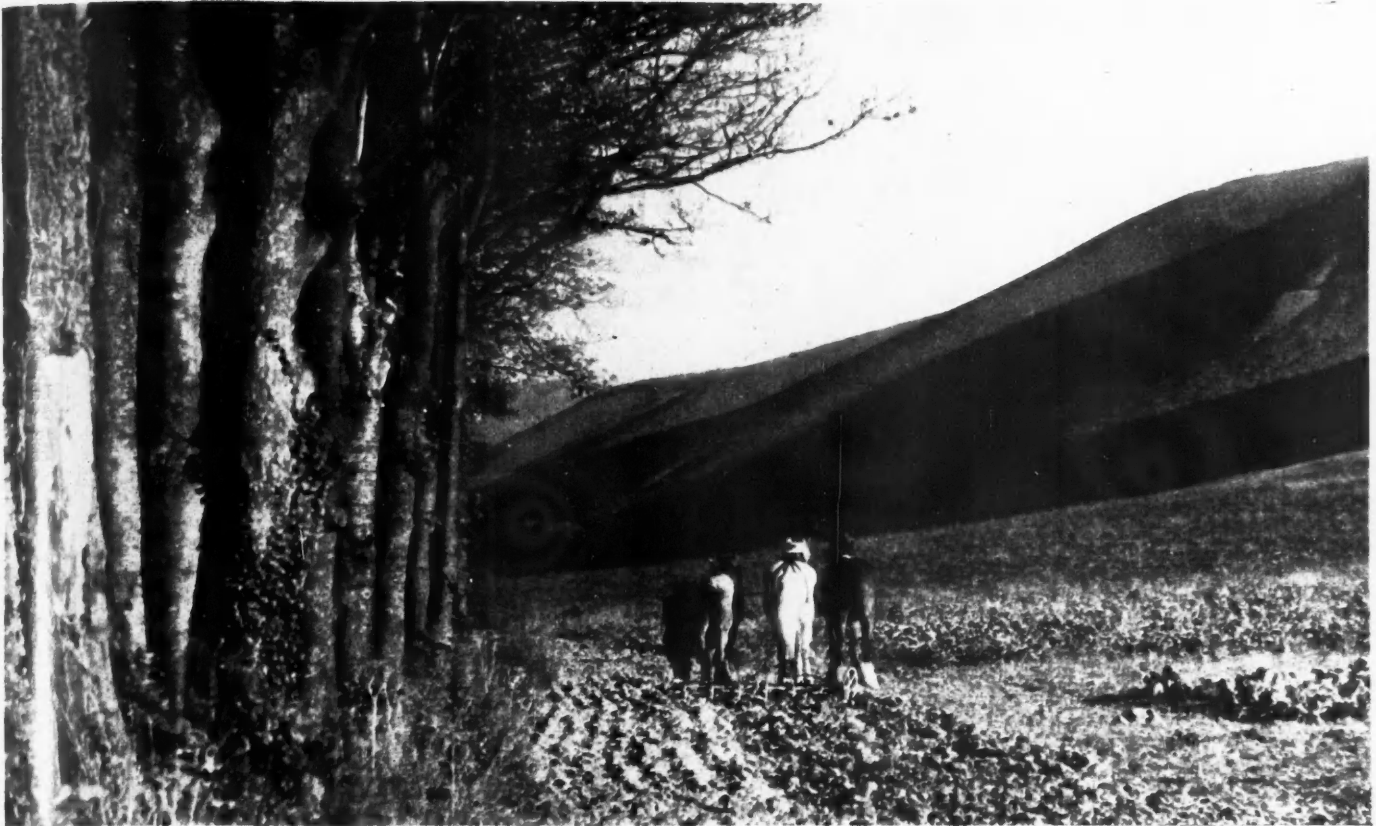
WE are told that the British Colour Council has advised on the exterior colour for buses, but the nature of their advice appears to be still wrapped in mystery. Londoners are familiar with only two colours; the staid vermilion of the urban bus, the comparatively restful green of the more rustic. There is doubtless something to be said for uniformity, but what glorious opportunities are wasted by this lack of invention. Lovers of Calverley will remember his engaging "charade" which describes a mother with her child waiting, as it ultimately turns out, for the St. John's Wood omnibus. Some buses were of richest purple, and some blue; others again were "barred with yellow like the April bees" and that which came at last to take the mother "safe in its gentle piloting" was green and gold. With such bright examples to help them it is to be hoped that the Colour Council may induce the Ministry of Works to induce the London Passenger Transport Board to be a little more enterprising and make our streets more colourful. The special enquiry as to "the correlation of cosmetics with costume colours" will leave a large part of the population cold by comparison.

THE GOLFER'S UNCONQUERABLE HOPE

THE golfer is growing a little weary and distrustful when he is told that there is a good time coming when he will be able to buy a good, new ball to play with. However, he goes on hoping and he has lately been cheered yet again by learning that by mid-Summer there will be a "reasonable supply" of the real thing. To this statement, however, a damping corollary is attached, namely that for a while almost the whole supply will go to the professionals for playing in competition and for "tutoring" purposes. Nobody will grudge the professional a proper supply of ammunition for the hard fights before him next Summer, but there will be no such altruistic feelings towards his pupils. The ordinary golfer will rather be of opinion that the learner might exercise his prentice hand upon already war-scarred veterans, which are quite good enough for him. We are further told that the new balls will probably cost 3s. 9d. apiece as compared with the florin or half-crown of pre-war days. That is a modest price indeed when we contemplate those demanded in the Agony Column, and, as we may suppose, eagerly paid. An "unwrapped" ball resplendent in its original paper of a pre-war vintage is in the nature of a pig in a poke and has ere now caused some bitter disappointment.

GARDEN VISITORS

REQUISITIONING of houses, shortage of staff and petrol rationing all made the running of the National Gardens Scheme increasingly difficult during the war years. All the more credit must be given to the organisers, whose hard work and enthusiasm have kept it alive. Last year £4,135 was raised for the Queen's Institute of District Nursing by the opening of gardens—a figure only £17 short of the preceding year's and still very considerably higher than that of 1943. Buckinghamshire with a total of £613 again came out head of the list of counties, with Lancashire second, bringing in £451. Lancashire benefited by the opening of the gardens of Stonyhurst College, which in one day attracted over 5,000 visitors. This year, with larger numbers of holiday makers, a little more petrol for motoring, and, it is to be hoped, a few more gardeners come from the wars, the scheme should go ahead with renewed vigour.



Will F. Taylor

HARROWING ON THE SOUTH DOWNS, NEAR EDBURTON

A COUNTRYMAN'S NOTES

By

Major C. S. JARVIS

IT would be interesting to hear from those COUNTRY LIFE readers who maintain birds' breakfast-tables if it is usual for the blue tit to sit down to meals. I must confess I had never noticed this formal behaviour until three years ago when one of the odd half-dozen blue tits, who are regular members of the breakfast-table club, started to eat his crust of bread by squatting squarely on his posterior, with the morsel held close to his beak in both feet. It is a most comfortable position apparently, and certainly a very sensible one, as the scrap of bread does not slip away with each peck, and there is less risk of another breakfaster purloining it. Individual blue tits are difficult to identify, but I imagined it was only one bird that adopted this stance, for I thought I could detect a slight shabbiness of the feathers beneath his tail as the result, which suggested that his trousers would require re-seating before the annual moult.

* * *

THE following Winter the "tit who sits down to meals" was again in evidence, watched presumably with admiration by his relatives, and this year the fashion has caught on, for, not only do all the blue tits adopt it as a matter of course, but a pair of marsh tits, who are infrequent visitors, immediately sit down if they see one of their opposite numbers in blue breakfasting in this position. It is rather suggestive of those occasions when a human diner, unaccustomed to the array of forks, knives and glasses which are laid at a state dinner, keeps a watchful eye on an old hand so that there should be no regrettable knife activity with a dish for which it is "forks only." I shall never forget the horrified amazement at our dinner table of an Egyptian officer who, on a dish of asparagus coming round, made the discovery that English people, usually so correct about the employment of the right sort of knives and forks, adopt the custom of the Beduin with this vegetable and, grabbing it in their fingers, suck the end off in the same way that a nomad Arab sucks the marrow from a sheep's knuckle bone.

Those aggressive individualists, the great tits, are now giving the sitting position a trial

from time to time, but, though they realise it has its good points, they are loth to commit themselves entirely to the methods of their social inferiors. Beyond the tit family it seems unlikely that the new fashion in table manners will spread, as the robins, nuthatches and chaffinches persist in treating the breakfast-table as a snack bar, and their method of feeding suggests that of those part-time Highlanders, who in the month of August wear kilts, and walk around the room eating their breakfast porridge "on the hoof."

* * *

IN my childhood days I was told a not-very-nice nursery story about an old farm wife, who one morning tipped out the dregs of a beer cask into the goose yard, and an hour later found the six occupants stretched out apparently dead. Resolved to cut her loss as much as possible she hurriedly plucked the birds for the market (this of course was long before the days of efficient poultry-sale control), and, as she was finishing the last bird, the first one recovered from its bout of drunkenness and, with all the signs of a bad hang-over, started to waddle away in a naked state. As the weather was chilly the old farm wife set to work and hastily made flannel pull-overs, equipped with pants, which she put on the geese when they had recovered consciousness, and which they wore until their feathers grew again. According to the story, as it was told me, they lived happily ever after—or, at any rate, until the week before Christmas.

This nursery tale struck me as being most improbable even at the early age of six, but I have just been told a true story of to-day, which would go to prove that the complete plucking of birds has presumably no harmful effect. A friend of mine, seeing a number of geese on a near-by farm, enquired if he could

buy one for Christmas. The smallholder's wife replied that she had no licence to sell poultry, and could only let him have a goose as a stock bird; and the price would be £2 10s. Then, on finding that the sum was considered excessive, she added: "and of course this would include plucking."

* * *

WITH reference to the famous, or infamous, Picasso picture, *Woman with Fish Hat*, I have come to the conclusion that there is nothing wrong with the picture itself; it is over the title, or caption, that Picasso has led us astray, and upset so many people. The correct title for this very striking picture is quite obviously *Woman in a Fish Queue*, and once one has grasped this one realises what a marvellous and true-to-life work of art it is.

The blazing eyes set at different angles, which have irritated students of art and anatomy, are correct in every way with no hint of exaggeration, for they reproduce the look one sees on a fish-queue female's face almost every day—the left eye on the marble slab measuring the last piece of turbot displayed, and looking disparagingly at the Iceland cod, while the right eye counts the number of would-be fish purchasers between the subject of the portrait and the fish vendor. The malignant glare in the right eye is not exaggerated at all, for it is to be seen on most mornings since the days of peace and plenty started. The high cock of the nostrils is also true to life, for do we not all desire to know the age of the fish displayed, and how long it has been on rail or waiting for strikers to load it, while the agonised clasp of the hands and contortion of the mouth suggest that the last strip of turbot is in immediate peril with a customer in view.

The empty fork in the hat, plus the well-picked bone and the clock, which does not seem to be registering Greenwich time, are all common features of to-day, while the bristly state of the poor creature's neck merely shows that the over-worked and under-staffed hairdresser has been unable to give her an appointment for over a month, or that the unfortunate

woman spends so much time in fish and other queues that she is unable to attend to her toilet. I do not agree with the majority of the population of this country that the picture is meaningless—with the correct title it is one of the most striking and topical pictures of to-day.

* * *

A CORRESPONDENT in a Sunday newspaper asks if the following statement made to him by a farmer is true: "that at big shoots the head keeper serves out to the gun-loaders half the supply of cartridges in blanks and the shooter blazes away in blissful ignorance—but for this there would never be any birds left over for the next shoot." It is really disgraceful the way these mendacious farmers pull the legs of the simple townsmen, but the shooter blazing off blank cartridges at grouse, pheasants and partridges makes a good story, and is almost as easy to believe as the one about the sandbags being sent out from this country ready filled with sand for the Suez Canal defences.

So far I have never had the good fortune to make the acquaintance of shoot-owners who, in addition to providing one with a day's sport and a brace of birds to take home, also supply the cartridges, but they may exist. As most of the men I meet when shooting are most particular, and in some cases fussy, about the make and loading of the cartridges they use, I cannot think the system would ever be really popular. "No, I never accept Smith's invitations to shoot nowadays. He has become one of those No. 7 shot fanatics and supplies nothing else; and I have never been able to do any good with them."

On the other hand, the knowledge that blanks had been issued to the loaders might supply a most convincing excuse for those painful exhibitions, which are occasionally given by the most reliable shots and which they have to attribute to bad light. "Entirely the loader's fault. He did not stir up the cartridges properly when the keeper issued them, and during the last drive I was firing nothing but blanks!"

* * *

THE wild polecat from all accounts is more common in various parts of this country than it was some thirty years ago, and reports of the animal being seen in several parts of Wales and the Lake District are constantly recorded. It is satisfactory to know that this interesting survival of the past is still holding its own.

One of the peculiarities of the polecat is his fondness for frogs and toads, and his original method of putting these reptiles into, what one might call, cold storage. It is recorded that in one breeding nest over forty frogs and toads were found in a state of suspended animation—alive but quite unable to do more than breathe. They had all been skilfully bitten through the head in such a manner that only that portion of the brain which controls movement had been affected, which suggests that the polecat's knowledge of anatomy and skilful surgery almost puts him in the F.R.C.S. class.

* * *

DURING an angling discussion on the general coloration of trout and the extent to which this varies, I happened to mention

that on one occasion I had caught trout on a small mountain lough in County Fermanagh which had blue spots as well as brown and red! This statement met with some incredulity, and I was asked to name the lough and provide further details. On looking back through the mist of years to that day in the pure mountain air of North Ireland I wonder if my evidence as an eye-witness is reliable enough to be accepted in fishing circles.

It happened to be August 2, a date of some significance if one serves in a regiment with Minden traditions, and at the time I was attached at Enniskillen to the Hampshire Regiment who were with Duke Ferdinand of Brunswick on August 1, 1759, and who had marched into battle with roses in their hats. I recall the day very clearly—particularly the long jolting drive up to the lough in an Irish jaunting car—and I remember that my companion, an officer of the Hampshire Regiment, also commented on the blue spots on the trout we caught. As, however, the whole of the scenery, including the lough, the boat and the boatman, seemed to be decorated with spots of varying hue that morning we may have been in the same state as the historical gun of Victorian times, who, as the result of late nights with the decanter, was in the habit of opening the day with a right and left at the covey of brown liver spots as they floated over the hedgerow in front.

I should be grateful if any North Irish fisherman with experience of Co. Fermanagh would confirm if there are trout near Enniskillen with blue spots—it would relieve my mind to hear that there are.

THE COOLINS IN WINTER

By M. G. COX

BLACK squalls came hurrying hard on each other's heels out of the north, bringing, with them great flurries of snow, covering the Skye roads with a soft blanket, only to be lifted again by the wind and sent to swell the drifts in more sheltered places.

So it was on the morning of our first day in Glen Brittle, when we set out towards Coire Laggan intending to reconnoitre the precipice of Sron na Ciche. Between us and the corrie was a sheet of falling snow; at first it came upon us as light, watery flakes which melted when they settled on our clothes, but soon the wind was beating ferociously against us, whipping up the loose surface snow into spirals that swept across the glen in columns of white powder. Our faces burned red on the weather side as the stinging flakes were driven horizontally against them.

We trudged on through this curtain of snow, hoping that when we reached the corrie there might be a lull allowing us, perhaps, just a glimpse of the rocks. Higher up, however, the snow fell thicker than ever, so we sheltered thankfully at the foot of a huge boulder which, in its Winter coat, resembled a miniature Matterhorn. Here we awaited a gap in the seething, grey mass. It did not come. Everything was filled with the wind's whining and rushing among the invisible rocks above and the light pattering of falling flakes around us. We retraced our steps to Glen Brittle House, disappointed, but what could we expect of Skye weather in January?

If this were to continue, climbing would clearly be out of the question, and even if conditions improved it was doubtful whether the rocks would "go."

COOLINS RIDGE FROM SCURR
BANACHDICH





THE ISLE OF RUM FROM SGURR DEARG

Before going to bed we opened the door, which faced the mountains, and looked outside. Incredibly, the night was infinitely still, and with the stillness had come the cold. The only sound came from the Banachdich burn near by, and even this seemed subdued now, as if it realised that by morning there would be only thin trickles of water pulsating gently under the ice.

Our bedroom water-jug was frozen solid when we awoke, but the Coolins were absolutely clear, silhouetted in the shadow of the sun which cast a pink glow upon the lower hills that border the west of Glen Brittle. Above, a few isolated clouds were motionless in the pale blue northern sky, which grew paler still, almost turning to white on the horizon.

After a vast breakfast we mounted leisurely up the way whereon we had battled with the wind and snow the day before. We reached Coire Banachdich within an hour. We struck the southern slope of the corrie somewhat too high and had to traverse carefully across steep snow-covered scree, under the lower rocks of Sgurr Dearg, to the foot of the Window Buttress. Here we ate some sandwiches and examined the climb. The rock was powdered with snow and most ledges and cracks were covered with a thin layer of ice. We decided to make a route up the right-hand side of the buttress, leaving the Window itself just to our left, as under prevailing conditions this pitch would have taken too long, if indeed it could have been climbed at all.

We roped and made our way very slowly and cautiously, pitch by pitch, up glazed rocks which, in Summer, would have been comparatively simple. Now every hold had to be scraped clear of verglas, sometimes with the ice-axe and sometimes with a jack-knife, making our hands bitterly cold and sticking to our fingers if we hesitated. Some pitches were easy, others very near the limit; it took a great deal longer than either of us had expected, and it was well into the afternoon when we reached a broad shelf below the west shoulder of Sgurr Dearg. We rested and finished the sandwiches.

We did not linger long, as time was passing

too quickly, but continued upwards over the broken ice-crusts of the shoulder. Before long the sun was setting over the sea, forcing us to descend, while there was still light, into Coire Laggan. We had not reached the summit of Sgurr Dearg, there to find out what the main ridge had in store for us the next day, but we had remained long enough to see the last sparkle on the icicles that bearded the rocks beside us, and the long streamers of cloud that reflected a dim red light over the hills on Rum. Then we descended in a smooth and glorious glissade to the tiny lochan in the floor of Coire Laggan just as the sun disappeared beyond the islands.

Back at Glen Brittle House, we reflected in comfort and made plans for the morrow over a gigantic meal, during which one of us disposed of no fewer than thirteen mugs of tea! Afterwards, as usual, we inspected the night, and found a sky twinkling with myriads of stars, no cloud visible and an all-pervading frost. The weather was going to hold.

Daylight did not belie expectations, and our aim was to climb directly up the face of Sgurr nan Gobhar close behind the house, continuing along the arête which connects this outlying peak with the main Coolin ridge, and thence to the summit of Sgurr Banachdich by its west face. There we would obtain the view we had missed the previous day.

We plodded wearily in soft powdery snow on the lower slopes, but as the gradient steepened the snow improved. We kicked steps to the summit, and looked back across Glen Brittle to the Minch. Our walk along the arête was upon a sharp edge of wind-blown snow, too delicate to support many cornices, but a perfect surface to tread. Near the junction with the west face of Banachdich, we swept the snow from some rough gabbro boulders, sat down and ate a meal.

By now the sun had become surprisingly hot, rising, as it does in Skye at that time of year, only a comparatively short distance above the horizon. This in itself is often of great assistance to the photographer, as the surface texture of the snow is thrown into sharp relief and is not a lifeless plain of whitewash.

In front of us the rocks and gullies of Sgurr a' Greadaidh, gleaming white with fluted ice, stood out sharply beyond the great shadow cast by Sgurr Banachdich. Further to our right lay the dark, rounded buttresses of Sgurr Dearg; only the broad shelf which we had reached the day before was in sunshine, while over the sea a haze hid all but the highest peaks of Rum, standing serenely above calm waters. An embryo cloud forming above Askival appeared like smoke from a volcano. All around us the sunshine struck a million little crystals and knobs of ice.

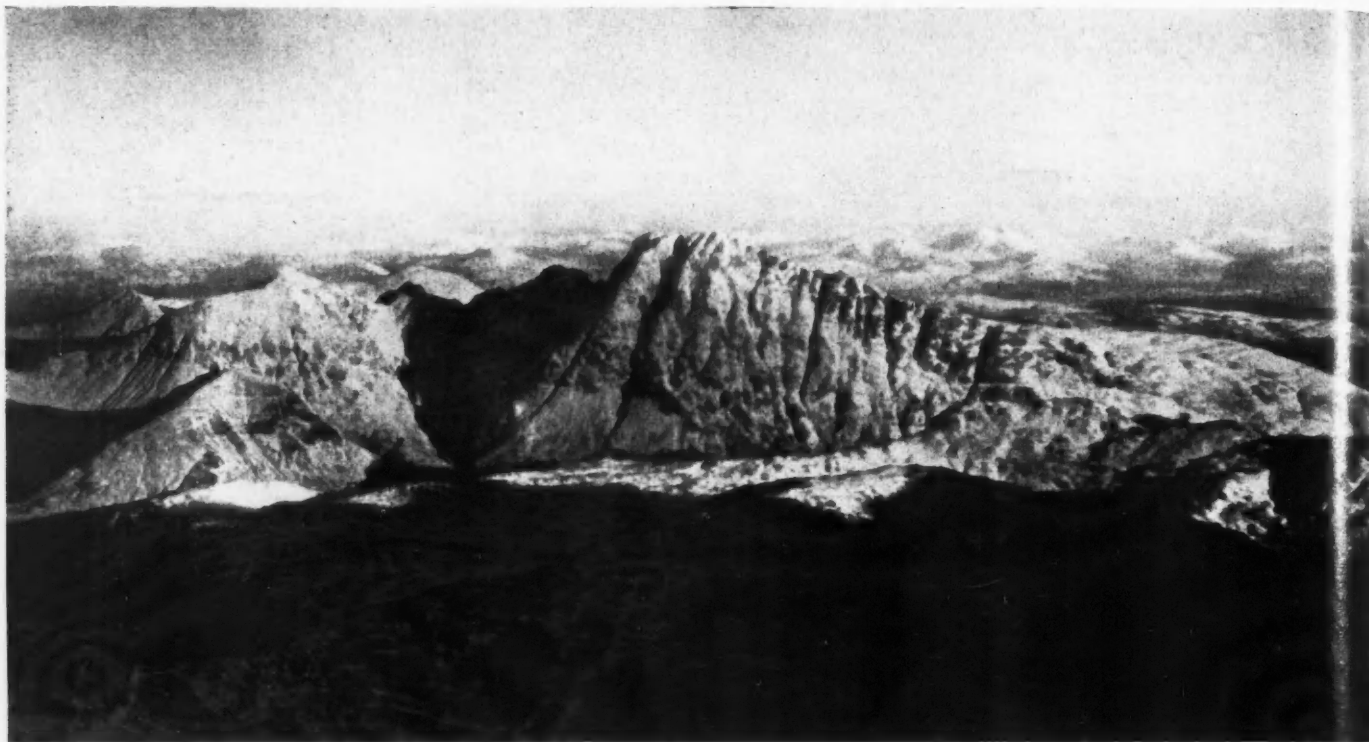
We walked on up this dazzling carpet wondering eagerly what we would see beyond the main ridge. Soon the summit was in sight and we ran to the cairn. A truly amazing panorama stretched towards the mainland. The great snow and ice faces of Blaven and Clach Glas formed the middle distance while the black shadow of the Coolins barred the sun from the corries below. Northwards the Red Hills across Glen Sligachan stood like giant puff-balls capped in ridges of silky snow. Hundreds of peaks were visible to the east, though a low-lying haze cut off all but their tops from our view on the horizon. In the very dim distance the bulk of Ben Nevis could just be discerned.

Below us lay Coruisk, its waters dark in the shadow of the ridge. Over everything was a profound quiet till an occasional stone or ice particle broke off with the sun's warmth and went tinkling into the depths.

We spent some time on the summit finishing our lunch and exposing much film in an effort to capture something of the beauty of our surroundings. It is all too easy under such conditions to take photographs haphazardly in the belief that the camera sees eye-to-eye with oneself, forgetting its limitations and paying too little attention to the composition of each picture.

When the sun began to lose its warmth the falling stones were silenced once more, and we plunged gaily down a convenient trough of crusted snow into Coire a' Greadaidh.

How easy it is at the end of one climbing



EAST FROM THE MAIN RIDGE. BLAVEN AND CLACH GLAS WITH MAINLAND PEAKS BEYOND

day to talk of ambitious schemes for the next, and how often are those schemes modified in favour of something less strenuous when the next day comes. Our limbs were somewhat weary and we succumbed easily to the tentative suggestion of an off day, exploring the burns on the low ground.

Streams are perhaps one of the most pleasant ingredients of mountain scenery. Starting as mere drips and seepings or throbbing springs, they gradually become more confident trickles which join countless other trickles to form a regular flow, turning at last into a rushing, talkative torrent, with falls and pools. In Winter their waters are crusted with ice and the heathery banks that border their course are snowbound. Icicles hang from the

falls and the pools look green and cold; frost flowers glide down the water and freeze to the icy margin, forming varieties of patterns.

We spent some fascinating hours looking for photographs along the banks of the burn which emerges from Coire Laggan and winds across boulder-strewn flats to the sea.

The following day was as fine as ever but high above the Coolins were a few long wisps of cloud. We decided to go up Glen Brittle and climb the south-west side of Sgurr Thuilm, making any course from the summit which seemed favourable according to the time we had taken. Our way led upwards over steep, regular slopes to a wonderful curved arête which mounted directly towards the summit. The snow here was in perfect condition and it was easy to kick steps, though there were patches formed by wind action which were prepared to slide had they been given provocation.

Sgurr Tuilm was an arc of white and hardly any rock was visible, except for occasional outcrops. We had seen this snow two days before and had longed to tread it. Beyond the cairn and still above, the peak of Sgurr a' Mhadaidh was scarred by a great black gully, and the ridge between was heavily corniced. Away in Applecross and Torridon the hills stood over a haze which covered the rest of Skye, and above them strange opaque cloud bars

were massing. The northern sky was tinged with a curious pale green.

We followed the ridge and decided to make for the highest of Mhadaidh's four tops; this meant traversing very steep snow slopes below the peak until we joined a large couloir which led directly to the skyline. The snow was astonishingly hard, almost like *névé*, and the angle was considerable; fragments dislodged by the leader's ice-axe swished past and cannoned off the retaining walls. At length, breathing hard, we gained the col between Sgurr a' Mhadaidh and Sgurr a' Greadaidh, and after a rest continued up steep irregular rocks, very slippery but beautiful with frost flowers. To reach the summit it was necessary to proceed *à cheval* upon a knife-edge of ice, gripping tightly with the knees and summoning every available source of friction from our clothing. On one side an apparently vertical cliff dropped to Coruisk, while the other fell away hardly less steeply to the snow slopes which we had traversed. This was indeed a real mountain.

A faint chill wind sprang up as we watched the sky turn slowly from green through pink to red, and great ranges of clouds now filled the north. We were glad to clamber back to the col and proceed, at first with much braving, then with ever-increasing confidence, on a superb glissade down the couloir. As we emerged into Coire a' Greadaidh the sun lit on the frozen surface of a pool, making it glow like fire.

Late in the night the expected storm began, and the mountains retired once more behind a misty barrier heavy with snowflakes.

The pictures illustrating this article were taken by Michael Fox and Hamish Pelham-Burn.

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THE AUTHOR ON THE SUMMIT OF SGURR THUILM

Patches of snow might easily have slid as the mountaineers climbed



SKOKLOSTER SHIELD

By JAMES MANN

THE layman who looks at the Skokloster shield may well be excused for repeating the words of General Bosquet at Balaclava: It is magnificent, but it is not war. Yet one need not judge armour solely by its fitness in the field. Its uses were wider than that. From the earliest ages weapons have been subject to elaborate ornamentation, and it is only in recent years that this instinct has been suppressed.

In the days before crowns and stars and crossed batons, a leader was known by the richness of his accoutrement. A fine armour gave prestige. It was the most valued of diplomatic gifts. Rival monarchs on the field of the Cloth of Gold strove hard to outshine each other in person as well as in policy. The parade armour was a serious matter, and implied more than personal vanity. It was an instrument of propaganda, designed to emphasise the owner's power and resources.

The shield (Fig. 1) which is described and illustrated in great detail in a monograph published by the Kungl. Livrustkammaren, *Skokloster Skölden*, with an English summary (Stockholm 1945), by the former director, the late Baron Rudolf Cederstrom, and completed by a colleague, Karl Erik Steneberg, forms part of the hereditary armoury of Count Wrangel in the castle of Skokloster. The authors show that it probably belongs to a suit for man and horse in the Swedish Royal Armoury made for King Erik XIV of Sweden by an Antwerp goldsmith, Eliseus Liebaerts. This is a new name to the student of armour and raises interesting speculations about the whole group of embossed armour to which it belongs. This has hitherto been called the Louvre School from the French connections of many of its components.

The ornament is in all cases florid and rather decadent in the manner of the School of Fontainebleau. It lacks the richness and vigour of the work of the Negrioli of Milan of the preceding generation. Liebaerts was clearly more of a goldsmith or medallist than an armourer. The general design is nearly always weak, taking little account of the main lines of the armour, but the execution of the detail is most accomplished. This is clearly shown by contrasting the photograph of the whole shield, which gives a confused impression, with any of the eleven plates of detail. The latter exhibit with what skill the muscular figures of captives are rendered in low relief, and the savage battle of naked



1.—THE SKOKLOSTER SHIELD



2.—PEACE GENII: DETAIL OF THE SUIT OF ERIK XIV IN STOCKHOLM. (Right) 3.—DRAWING IN THE GRAPISCHE SAMMLUNG AT MUNICH

men and horses in the central cartouche is quite horrifying. The women throwing arms upon the fire, though executed in a most stubborn medium, are actually more sensitive than the drawings for them in the Graphische Sammlung at Munich (Fig. 3).

The Louvre School is represented in this country by several parade shields in the Wallace Collection and at Windsor Castle. Whether we shall in future have to call it the Antwerp School remains to be seen. But wherever or by whom it was made, the prevailing inspiration is that of the French artist, Etienne Delaune.

Armour can be as significant a vehicle of taste as furniture or architecture. Erik XIV must have liked his opulent Antwerp armours, for he had three of them, two of which were sold early in the seventeenth century to the Elector of Saxony. But we know that he was also acquainted with armour of a more restrained magnificence. When he was courting Queen Elizabeth, his envoy Duke John of Finland, was presented with an armour engraved with a bear shouldering a sword which was made for him in the Royal Workshops at Greenwich. It is now lost, but its appearance is recorded by a drawing in the pattern book known as the *Jacobe Allam*, and now in the Victoria and Albert Museum.

(Right) 4.—DETAIL OF THE SHIELD



FOX-HUNTING'S DEBT TO THE FARMER

Written & Illustrated by
LIONEL EDWARDS

"HUNTING, like the drama or any other institution, depends for its existence on the support of public opinion," said the late Lord Willoughby de Broke. That the particular public opinion in this case is that of the farmers goes without saying.

If the squire be still in possession of his ancestral acres, which is most unlikely, he is probably too poor to hunt. The parson certainly is, and owing to a definite shortage of medicos, the doctor is too busy. Yet they and the farmers—with a small percentage of soldiers on leave—were the field in olden days. From mid-Victorian times hunting became really much too popular and there rode over the land a very different and much larger field, most of whom knew little about agriculture. In addition, a perfect spate of new laws and regulations on every conceivable subject during the last fifty years or so has added enormously to the difficulties of hunting a much more thickly-populated country, so that damage which was trivial in times past easily becomes of some magnitude to-day.

Let me give an actual example. A youth put a tired horse at a boundary fence into a road and knocked a hole in the fence. After he had gone the stock got out and the police took action against the farmer for letting his animals stray on the road. The Bench happened to consist that day of sporting magistrates, who fined the farmer as lightly as possible, but none the less administered the law, as they were bound to do. The farmer promptly warned the hunt off!

As Mr. Jorrocks says, "A slight knowledge of farmin' promotes the true enjoyment of the chase, and wot so 'umiliating as to see a big farmer bullying a little man in leathers and scarlet for riding over his seeds when the innocent is ignorant of havin' done nothin' o' the sort!" All the same, it does not follow that he was ignorant, except of local conditions.

In these days people move about a great deal. He might have come from one of the plough countries, which always have been arable and always have been hunted over, so that unless it was seeds in the literal sense of the word, his offence in those countries would be almost nil. It is this shifting population which is one

of the modern menaces to fox-hunting. There is, I am afraid, a growing section among the farmers who, although they welcome residents, intensely dislike horse-box folk. Although the honorary secretary probably looked on these as a mixed blessing, their cap was distinctly useful to hunt funds, especially in some of the more fashionable countries. Two or three well-known hunts have this season banned visitors—a wise precaution from the farmers' point of view, if not from the box office's.

Another much-debated question among my farmer friends is that of fox-hunting on Saturdays. Years before the war I heard them say that they were against Saturday hunting, especially the smaller farmers. Their men go home at mid-day, leaving the small farmer to milk and feed, etc., so that the land is empty. Consequently, if gates are left open the straying of stock, etc., is unnoticed until Monday morning and a lot can happen in that time. On the other hand, many farmers and most business men and tradesmen would be unable to hunt on any day except Saturday.

What is the answer? Anyway, it boils down to this—never leave a gate open. Second horsemen were supposed to shut gates, but I always remember the master who, writing up his hunting diary, underlined in red ink, "actually saw a second horseman shut a gate!" T.T. herds confined in double fences make the gate question more acute than ever.

There is another aspect of Saturday hunting that occurs to me. It seems to me likely that it may be difficult, in these days of high wages and short hours, to get hunt servants and grooms to work late on tired and dirty horses on Saturdays.

Unfortunately, there are to-day, for fox-hunting, bigger issues to be faced—as examples, the new motor roads and the electrification of all railways. Both will be real stoppers one would imagine! But let us confine ourselves to the more immediate future and not go to meet trouble halfway.

Those people who think that hunting conflicts with farming interests must be a little shaken in their convictions, not only by the fact that the farming community had a wonderful opportunity to stop hunting in the early days of the war, and did not, but by the fact that the farmers in the Chiddingfold country of Surrey and Sussex started a new pack of foxhounds in their country to replace the old pack, and this during the war.

A few of the many packs did not hunt through the war and, as I fully expected, they are the ones which have some difficulty in starting up again. So far as I can learn at present however, only two are really defunct out of about 190 in Great Britain, exclusive of Scotland and Ireland.

My business has of late led me to various hunting countries. In each I have endeavoured to discover the local conditions and, in most cases, had a day's hunting also. "No names, no pack drill," but one hunt I went to is run by two farmers, with an old kennel man of 70. Another has been hunted by a farmer through the war and chiefly financed by brother agriculturalists. Moreover, these are not the little foot packs of the Welsh, Scottish or Cumbrian hills that are, in normal times, what one might call poor man's fox-hunting, but they are ordinary, fair-sized provincial hunts. The enthusiasm for the chase is far from dead. Apart from those taking an actual part, the odd trusses of hay and straw, the pig potatoes to feed hounds on, the odd carcass for the same purpose, or the loan of a horse to the hunt servants by a farmer, have all kept things going. In fact, the farmers have saved fox-hunting from extinction.

During the war every acre was needed for corn, potatoes or sugar-beet. Apart from the fact that this was, in many cases, a hardship for farmers, apparently local climate was not always taken into consideration and, more particularly in the north and west of Britain, crops were grown which, obviously to local people, could not ripen, much less be harvested, owing to climatic conditions. I have in mind a very considerable acreage in Westmorland where corn lay rotting in the fields when I



"ONE OF THE PLOUGH COUNTRIES WHICH ALWAYS HAVE BEEN ARABLE"



"OLD BOILING HENS AT THIRTY SHILLINGS EACH".

pared in November a year or two back. Consequently it is obvious that a relaxation of

As a farmer wrote recently, "If farmers should extinguish hunting, it will not extinguish foxes."

restrictions is called for, and that much land must go back to grass—which is to the good from a riding point of view. And yet no loss to the nation.

Then there is the poultry question. In normal times most hunts paid (although it was not obligatory) compensation for loss occasioned by foxes, but it is obvious that no hunt has funds capable of paying for even old boiling hens at 30s. each! Therefore, they put up with vulpicide and try to look pleasant about it! This may continue for some time to come and, personally, I doubt if it will lead to a fox shortage.

The views of the farmers' men are a little more difficult to gauge. Perhaps these two examples give some sort of guide to their attitude to-day.—

(A) *Northamptonshire*. There be a fox in a trap down in long meadow, boss. I couldn't get he out. You'd better have a try—

(B) *Hampshire*. The Yanks were just as fond of pets as the British soldiers. One of them had a tame fox cub—which he released before going overseas on D. Day. This cub, with a collar on, was quite unable to fend for itself and, driven desperate by hunger, it was seen trying to steal a workman's dinner out of his satchel (left under a hedge). It was promptly knocked on the head.

In conclusion let me record part of a conversation overheard on the last day of cub hunting. An old farmer was speaking: "And I shall hope to see you gents at the opening meet next week in scarlet and everything, the same as afore the war." The reply was, "Well, I don't know, George. It was not much fun fighting Hitler and some of us didn't come back, including our late master, so on the whole I think most people will think that scarlet is not indicated, at least, for the present."

HOW TO MANAGE WEEK-END SHOOTS

By J. B. DROUGHT

ONE of the brickbats most commonly hurled at syndicates is their partiality for over-shooting, to the detriment of ground and breeding stocks alike. Were there no better grounds for querying this suggestion, it is most unlikely that hard-headed business men would choose practically to double their expenses by re-stocking every year for the sake of a few days' extra shooting. If we cannot give them credit for sportsmanship, we might at least allow them common sense, although there are undoubtedly exceptions in those syndicates which carry out an annual fitting from one shooting to another and leave a barren heritage for unfortunate successors.

This question of over-shooting is not disposed of so easily, however. Quite often, without any lack of sportsmanship or infringement of bag limits, properties are too hard-hammered. The problem of week-end shooting is not an easy one. Men naturally want to employ their only days of recreation and so the Saturday shoot becomes an institution.

Now let us see how this works out. It may mean that a place is shot twenty-three times in the season, without taking into account the Christmas holidays. That means another two or three days' shooting, and this is out of all reason on any moderate-sized shoot.

If one expresses this opinion to those unacquainted with the ups and downs of game propagation, they ask why? They go on to say that our forebears shot for a hundred and twenty-six days a season without injuring their breeding stock and that game is much more plentiful nowadays than it was aforetime. That is all quite true. Yet how many shots did those old gentlemen, with their antiquated weapons, obtain by comparison with ourselves? Not so many in the season as are fired in one day's partridge driving or covert shooting. Were we content to pot-hunt, firing at one bird every hour, we, too, could go out whenever the fancy took us without worrying about the future. Unquestionably, in some parts of the country, we can still do so. That does not, as a rule, however, mean partridges and pheasants.

Of course, a syndicate may shoot every week-end, with high days and holidays into the bargain, if expense be no object. But then the problem ceases to be a problem. It may take a big enough area to provide shooting for, say, forty days in the season, twice over the ground, and no harm will be done to future prospects because every separate beat will be appropriately rested between-whiles.

It is not the actual killing of so many birds on a moderate-sized area, but the constant disturbance of an even larger number that does the damage. As has been said, with unlimited

financial resources these considerations do not arise and there is nothing easier on a model shoot, stocked in abundance, than to work out how much ground can be taken every shooting day to yield exactly what is wanted.

That, however, is not how most men, not being millionaires, look at things. What the average shooter wants primarily is ground which will give him fair bags on each occasion of his shooting. To suggest how this may be achieved, therefore, let us take a purely hypothetical shoot of, say, two thousand acres. Let us suppose, too, that it boasts a thousand pheasants, five hundred partridges, plenty of rabbits and a quota of snipe and various on a four-hundred-acre marsh. Then let us ask how that shoot could be managed to allow shooting every week-end throughout the season and to leave a decent stock for next year.

Quite a straightforward question, it appears, which should be capable of answer without prevarication. So it is, for the answer is that it cannot be managed at all unless we are willing to spend half those week-ends in pursuit of snipe, rabbits and etceteras. For look at it this way. Our pheasants will give us two big days in November; two lesser ones at Christmas, and one outing for cocks after that.

If we want to increase our stock of partridges, however, we cannot afford to shoot up more than half the stock. For 250 birds will not, remember, make up 125 true pairs; we shall be lucky indeed if, allowing for Winter casualties due to natural causes, they provide us with 80 nests. We shall be equally lucky if the all-over average of every nest is seven young birds, so that under the most favourable circumstances we shall have fewer than 750 partridges, young and old, at the beginning of next season.

So, while we may spread our partridge shooting somewhat by having some mixed days, the shoot is not big enough to leave driving till late, and it really boils down to how long it will take us to shoot 125 brace. Three days, perhaps; by spreading it we might make five which, with our five days' covert shooting, falls a long way short of the twenty-three week-ends of the season. Yet there is this much comfort on this shoot which (again let us pretend) we have taken for a term of years. The more self-denial we practise early on, the better for the future. Those partridge stocks will go on increasing, to the increase also of our shooting days, although the birds must never be allowed to increase beyond the capacity of the ground, combined with Winter feeding, to support them.

To revert briefly to the original question, however, we shall have to alter the figures con-

siderably if we want anything like twenty-five days' game shooting in the season although, of course, much depends upon natural geographical conditions. In any case, we must very likely double the acreage and the stock upon it if a similar number of guns is to have equivalent shooting. The amount of game a shoot will support per acre depends upon those natural amenities which I have mentioned. It does not follow that we shall get twice as much shooting.

I do not pretend, therefore, that this hypothesis is of any greater value than to serve as a rough illustration of what, under average conditions, shoots will bear. Of course, it is impossible to detail the countless ways in which any ground may be managed. While it cannot be gainsaid that the smaller the shoot the less disturbance it will stand, it may be quite possible on a moderate-sized place—one of, say, 1,500 to 2,000 acres—so to arrange things that only so many head shall be shot on any one day. Thus more outings will be possible, but the number of guns is also relevant. Broadly speaking, except on large shoots, few are preferable to many. While this is perfectly capable of arrangement on a private shoot, it is not in a syndicate the membership of which is fixed.

So we are up against another problem, as obviously the amount we kill and the number of days which we take to do it depends upon the degree of collective skill. Then there is also the financial point of view. Our shoot might be ideal for four guns, but for economy's sake we must take in another couple, thereby increasing the killing power and lessening the permissible number of shooting days. One cannot generalise upon these administrative permutations, except to suggest that where membership is too fully disproportionate to the ground the use of more than one gun per person should be forbidden.

One other point! A great deal more harm than many people realise is done by the undue prolongation of shooting days. Too many beats are planned, with the result that most, if not all, are taken in too great a hurry before that fatal last drive that takes place very often in the half light of a Winter's evening. Perhaps I have been unlucky, but in this particular my experience is that syndicates, with few exceptions, are blameworthy. These last drives re-act on their perpetrators in the long run. For driven game is never easy; it is supremely difficult in a bad light which increases cent per cent the chances of human error in tired men. If we always missed clean what we did not kill it would not matter. Unfortunately, we don't and it is, I verily believe, in these circumstances that a very large number of birds are pricked, to their own suffering and the detriment, if not the destruction, of their capacity for breeding.



1.—THE SOUTH FRONT: PINK WASHED WITH WHITE DETAILS AND PALE BLUE-GREEN SHUTTERS

RACKENFORD MANOR, DEVON—I

FORMERLY THE HOME OF THE LATE MR. ARTHUR CHAMBERLAIN

A homely 18th-century house enlarged 1928-32 with singular charm and taste

By CHRISTOPHER HUSSEY



2.—LOOKING ALONG THE FRONT FROM THE LOGGIA

RACKENFORD, lying between Tiverton and South Molton on high ground near the headwaters of the Dart, is an obscure and happy village with no ascertainable history (of any interest) and a manor house of particular charm. Much, indeed nearly all, of this charm the house owes to the late Arthur Chamberlain and to Mr. Allan Walton, who advised him on its alteration and furnishing. In itself the house is of no outstanding architectural note, the older part, between the wings in Fig. 1, dating back to perhaps the middle of the eighteenth century when a certain William Lyddon probably rebuilt it as a five-bayed Georgian block, plaster-faced and white-washed, with a little classical porch. Set among mature trees, on ground sloping gently southwards to an immense view bounded by distant Dartmoor on the horizon, the house had no pretensions to be more than a small squire's comfortable home.

A great deal of pleasure, as well as pains, was evidently taken to respect this character of the place, in its adaptation as a family home between the wars. To alter and enlarge sympathetically, and at the same time to provide for the personal needs of the occupier, requires sensibilities not always present either in client or architect. It is as a singularly successful example of this delicate operation that the place is considered in this article. The sequel will review the no less interesting way in which the furnishing and decoration of the rooms came together, gradually and happily, the owner evidently taking endless pleasure in collecting things because he liked them and because they would go with each other and the house. It is because of this essentially personal character, reflected charmingly about the place in so many ways, that it is described as the home of Mr. Chamberlain, who died in 1941. Unfortunately I never knew it in his time, and since these photographs were taken it has been sold and its contents dispersed. The illustrations, however, record not only an expression of an evidently delightful personality but an example of the art of home-making that is worth study.

As found in 1928, the house consisted of the central part of the present south front and the south half of the east wing, added some years previously and then having a gable. The porch in the middle, at that time the entrance, gave into a staircase hall (to the right) with two small rooms lying to the left. In colour it was a dirty white, and the surroundings were much grown-up with laurels and shrubs. Since then, additions have been twice made.

The first addition was the west wing, providing a nursery-schoolroom on the ground floor opening into a loggia formed



3.—THE NEW EAST ENTRANCE SIDE, FROM THE GARDEN TERRACE



4.—A PLEACHED PLANE ALLEY IN THE ENCLOSED FORMAL GARDEN



5.—THE HALL, FROM THE ENTRANCE CORRIDOR: STONE-COLOURED WALLPAPER AND BLACK AND DARK GREEN COLUMNS.

by the unadorned arch in the base. The gable of the east wing was removed and its roof reconstructed to match the rest of the front, the cornice moulding being also carried round the wing. The porch was retained as the garden entry, opening on to a paved terrace, and a new entrance and porch made on the east side (Fig. 3). The extension of this front to the right of the porch, however, did not take place till 1932. The surface of the walls was painted the pink traditional to Devon, and the shutters were added, painted a pale blue-green. Inside, the south entrance and stair hall was made the drawing-room, the two rooms beyond run together to form the dining-room, and a staircase existing just inside the new east entrance became the main ascent.

The second addition, when Mr. David Robertson was associated as architect with Mr. Walton, produced the hall (Figs. 5 and 8) to the right of the entrance, the columns marking the former external wall; and a new staircase built parallel to this hall and beyond it. Beyond the new staircase, and behind the south-facing rooms in the old part of the house, lie the kitchen and offices, mostly dating from the time the house was built. They look northwards into what no doubt was originally the stable yard but is now the entrance court, entered from the road. Now, therefore, one approaches the house from the back, turning rather sharply down to the gravel forecourt in front

of the new entrance. The old approach, now obliterated, was by a drive through the grounds from the east and so to the south front. The present approach is not architecturally impressive, no attempt having been made to co-ordinate the various levels of the back side of the house. On the other hand, it is a homely, serviceable approach, with stables and garage at hand, the gravelled yard pleasantly neat. It is in character with the place.

The same simplicity prevails in the grounds visible from the house. East, south, and west, mown turf stretches away from the paving immediately round the house, with nothing to detract from the wide pastoral view southward, which is framed by two big clumps of beeches and rhododendrons. It does not much matter that the grass is no longer close mown.

The garden proper is new, lying north-east of the house across the entrance-approach. In contrast to the rest of the surroundings, it is formal and quite elaborate—more so than would have been possible, had it been more closely linked to the house, without altogether altering the character of the place. Owing to the slope of the ground southwards, it lies slightly above the entrance, and at an obtuse angle to the axis of the entrance front, from which it is reached by a terrace (Fig. 3). The garden, separated by a wall, lies alongside the terrace and, divided into three sections, has the character of a series of outdoor rooms extending the house. The central compartment, forming the entrance from the terrace, is narrow, running back to a curved hedge. On the lateral axis apertures in the dividing hedges give into the two main enclosures on either side. That towards the house (Fig. 4) has a lead fountain in the middle of its lawn, in the corners of which are box-edged flower beds, and a flight of steps to a small orchard of flowering trees adjoining the entrance yard. The farther enclosure repeats its pair in the general lines but is differently laid out. Connecting all three along the north side is a pleached walk of plane trees (Fig. 7), at either end of which is a lead figure. The slender mottled stems of the planes—a tree



6.—THE CHAMBERLAIN FAMILY, BY PHILIP CONNARD

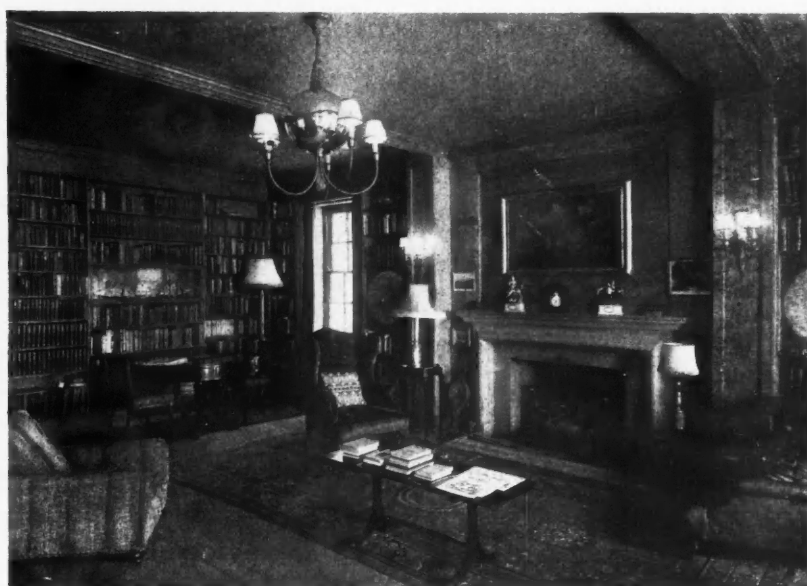
for some reason not often used for alleys but admirably adapted to them—and the dense level, canopy of their leaves, frames a series of delightful pictures across the enclosed gardens. Along the inner side is a herbaceous and Spring bulb border, along the outer more Spring bulbs and Solomon's seal against the outer cupressus hedge. Entering by the new front door we find on our right the spacious sitting-hall beyond a screen of black and dark green marbled columns (Fig. 5). It has a bow window in the farther corner with window seats and a large round table where family tea has generally been spread. The walls have a light stone-coloured paper with a slightly darker design, the parquet floor two fine Persian rugs of predominantly greyish, plum, and brown colours. The curtains are a deep rose velvet with gold embossed roses. The furnishing is an agreeable mixture of periods with several upholstered pieces not shown, and a pretty Louis-Philippe chandelier of ormolu and white glass lilies. The rather pale colouring, with deeper notes, matches admirably the light, vibrant tones of Mr. Philip Connard's conversation piece of the family (Fig. 6) which hangs on the inner wall and was painted for the room, though its scene is the south-facing drawing-room. Equally at home is Mr. T. C. Dugdale's "Sporting Picture" of the family on the lawn in front of the house, its predominant greens being echoed in the marble of the fireplace over which it hangs. It is rare enough to find one contemporary conversation piece in a house. The presence here of two brings home to one forcibly the value of this kind of portrait



8.—THE HALL LOOKING TOWARDS THE LIBRARY



7.—AN ALLEY IN THE GARDEN



9.—THE LIBRARY, A FRIENDLY PINE-PANELLED ROOM

in that, though their subjects are now scattered, and one of them no longer alive, by means of these portraits I felt that I had found them all at home and could fill the rooms with the people for whom they were furnished. Even when a new owner re-arranges the house, making a new, a different, home of it, these pictures will hold back time for those who see them, to those sunny Autumn days when a typical family lived at Rackenford between the wars.

A library always retains personal characteristics, and this one (Fig. 9), opening out of the hall southwards, seems to particularly, probably because it is so obviously cosy and well lived in. There is not much more than that to say about it, but what a charming room it is! The woodwork is pine, the fireplace Ham Hill stone, the ceiling muted to the same soft warm colour. (This toning down of the ceiling is perhaps the secret of the room's effect). Incidentally I am told that you cannot play bridge under the chandelier because everybody sees everybody else's hands, it being made out of a witchball and so reflecting everything convexly. I should suppose that even so one would need good eyesight so to read the heavens. Another delightful element is the way that ships have of sailing about the room—in the Van de Velde (or such) over the fireplace, in the crude Captains' panels over the doors, and even among the books (Fig. 10).

There for the present, this discourse on the fine art of home-making must pause. In the other rooms to be seen next week some of the subtler, more æsthetical, aspects of it will come in.

(To be concluded)



10.—DOOR TREATMENT AND ARRANGEMENT OF SHELVES IN LIBRARY

SOME HOGARTH ENGLISH GLASSES

By JOHN M. BACON

THE other day, my doctor said: "By the by, I have a glass given me by a patient which I should like you to see." He showed me a tall wine-glass with a small bowl and thick stem cut in diamonds all the way down to a large foot, the edge of which was turned under all round like a kind of hem. I dated this rare specimen for him as about 1745. This was a historic date both for English glass and English history. The Jacobite rising of that date stimulated the production of much English engraved glass in secret support of the movement, while Carlisle was being besieged and Penrith gave quite a bit of its wealth, willingly or unwillingly, to the movement.

In 1745 a heavy tax of £9 a ton on the materials for making glass was imposed by the Government of the day, such materials being red-lead oxide and white sand. In 1778 the tax was doubled and in 1825 it was raised to £48 a ton; and this continued until 1845, by which date, a hundred years after the first imposition of the tax, the glass trade had been completely killed. As a result no glass worthy of the name of English glass appeared at the Great Exhibition held in the Crystal Palace in Hyde Park in 1851.

But to return to our wine-glass. In 1745 most people were drinking out of wine-glasses with whorled air-lines in rather thick stems, which collectors call air-twists, but the nobility were accustomed to use glass cut. Nowadays, and from the days of Waterford (1783), each factory has its cutting shop, but in those earlier days cutting was done solely by glass-cutters (a separate trade), who had a busy time cutting beautiful specimens with those wheels which have to be used in succession for the production of each single diamond-shaped facet upon the stem: first the iron-wheel to make the first incision, then the stone wheel to enlarge and shape it, and then the wood wheel to polish it.

These old glass-cutters had their trade cards, sheets of paper whereon were printed from a specially engraved copper plate their name, address, and all the various objects they embellished with cutting after having procured the uncut articles from the ordinary glass factory. For example:

Thos Betts, Glass Cutter at Ye King's Arms Glass Shop . Opposite Pall Mall . Charring Cross, Makes and Sells all sorts of curious cut glass such as cruets, castors, salts etc. etc. (for seven lines more), cheaper and better than hitherto has been done, He being the Real Workman for many years.

TRADE CARDS

It was from a descendant of Thomas Betts I obtained the rare engraving, issued in 1748, with the information that he only made glass for the nobility. Thomas Betts's rivals issued similar trade cards; Jerrom Johnson, Ackerman, Haedy and others, and the object of their issue was to provide a customer with a receipt when he paid his bill, the items being written on the back and copied out of the ledger.

Samuel Pepys kept all his trade cards (receipted bills), and we have them to-day in the library of Magdalene College, Cambridge. From these we can tell that he bought his glass in 1669 from "John Burroughs at the Glass house without Ludgate." This glass would not, however, be cut glass, which was not made earlier than 1727.

The beautiful cut-stemmed glass shown me had a small bowl, such as was used for cordials. The chief cordials of those days were infusions



1.—MIDNIGHT MODERN CONVERSATION BY WILLIAM HOGARTH SHOWING GLASSES OF THE TYPE ILLUSTRATED ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

of fruits and brandy, and were called ratafias. These drinks were the usual accompaniment to the afternoon tea-table, even from the time of Queen Anne.

And how many and varied were these more or less potent home-made cordials issuing from the still room in every large house! I have the recipes of many, including one made from green walnut shells and another from the petals of red pinks. One alone, and not in any plenty, remains to us to-day, namely cherry brandy.

CORDIALS

These cordials were consumed out of other glasses both of earlier date and later than the one with the cutting on the stem.

The earliest were, perhaps, the Hogarths. These got the name by which they are generally called from their appearing so often in Hogarth's engravings of riotous drinking scenes. Good examples of these spirit glasses are shown in the first and third glass in the bottom row of glasses on page 1079 of the issue of COUNTRY LIFE for December 22, 1944, in the article by Mr. G. Bernard Hughes. It is easy to tell the difference between the Hogarth, which was a drinking glass, and the sweetmeat glasses by the size of the foot. In the sweetmeat or jelly glasses the foot is small like the square-based foot of the cut-glass example in the same row on page 1079, so that many can be placed upon the trays of the pyramid (see next article by Mr. Hughes in COUNTRY LIFE, February 2, 1945). There you will note the small feet.

Another charming glass of this early period is the syllabub glass. A good example was given in the December article, the only one with a handle. Earlier syllabub glasses were cup-shaped, having also a handle, and were either plain, ribbed, N.D.W. (nupt diamond waies) or purlee.

Syllabub glasses are not specifically mentioned in Ravenscroft's Price List of May 29, 1677, preserved in the records of the Glass-Sellers' Company, though the various glass-decorations are given; but in the Glass-sellers' Bills at Woburn Abbey transcribed by Mr. W.A. Thorpe for the Society of Glass Technology, April 13, 1938, the following items appear. (The first item appears to be a "Ravenscroft" glass).

June 23, 1676.	6 Ribbd flint Sulibub Glasses, Mrd.	s. d.
	(Mrd. = marked = sealed.)	... 9 0
June 23, 1682.	4 flint sulubub Glasses	... 4 8
June 7, 1687.	7 flint sulibub Glasses	... 5 10
June 10, 1690.	6 flint sulibub Glasses	... 5 0

It will be noted that if sealed, the glass cost 2s. 3d. and without seal 1s. 2d. each.

SYLLABUBS

Syllabubs were small glasses, for prices are also given for large flint sulibub glasses. These latter do not appear to have had covers, as "Large flint Glasses Covered" are mentioned below at a considerably higher price. An earlier mention in the Woburn Abbey bills is: August 25, 1675. 6 cristall sullibub glasses 3s. 0d. but the metal is evidently of a cheaper kind.

"Sillybub glasses" are still being sold in 1752, according to a list issued in that year by the Roche-Fitzsimmons Glass-house in Dublin.

In glass there is a reason for everything. Now syllabub being a warm drink, the glass had to have a handle. Syllabub was a wonderful concoction. There are many recipes for this variety of warm drink. For instance:

ROYAL LONDON SYLLABUB

Put a bottle of red-port, a pint of Madera, Sherry or fine old Mountain and half a pint of brandy into a large bowl, with grated nutmeg and plenty of loaf sugar, then milk into it at least two quarts from the cow and grate over it some nutmeg. This produced a drink with a froth at the top. Elaborate instructions are also given in case you have no cow. The glasses were filled and handed round while hot on a glass salver (see Mr. Hughes's article of February 2).

Another was made with beer or cider, but it was always a warm drink.

The glass on the right of page 1079 in the middle illustrations, dated 1720, might well have a handle and be a syllabub glass instead of a Hogarth. It is here shown (Fig. 7) with an old form of decoration described as "nupt diamond waies," a charming result of pressing the glass with a tool for that purpose before the metal hardens. People do not always realise that glass can be shaped and worked only at a temperature of 13 times boiling point, so that iron tools of special shapes for certain purposes are needed—and some tools have also a lining of wood.

Another form of decoration was called

"purlee" (Fig. 2). This is mentioned by Mr. Hughes—and these decorations are found on the earliest glasses (see also Figs. 3 and 6). Glasses were more apt to be decorated than plain at first, the reason being that in order to get our glass before the public, we had to copy the decorations found on Venetian or Continental glasses of contemporary date. Prior to the formula discovered by Ravenscroft, an Englishman, in 1673, showing the advantage of using lead oxide instead of soda in the mixture to go into the pot in the furnace to make glass, we had to import all fine glass from Venice. This was made of the soda and sand mixture, and was not transparent unless it was blown very thin. When the lead oxide and sand mixture was discovered, it was found that one could still see through it even though it was blown thick. This alone was enough to stabilise the superiority of English glass over the Venetian imports.

Thus one could order both plain and decorated glasses, as one can see by Ravenscroft's price list of May 29, 1677.

POSSETS AND PYRAMIDS

Chaucer writes of a "sovrain triacle," meaning a sovereign remedy, and so we are not surprised to find treacle in conjunction with brimstone. The word "posset" was used in two senses. It was either an individual drink for invalids, such as a treacle posset, to be sucked from the spout of a small posset pot—the pattern borrowed from the earliest lists for the feeding-cup of the modern sick-bed—or posset was convivial and made to bring joy to a multitude of palates—of such might well be the one entitled King William's Ale Posset, the recipe for which, given below, is to be found on page 40 in *The Family Receipt Book* of 1808. By that date it was losing its popularity. The book says:

Possets, though long highly esteemed are at present little used. If, however, they merit a French definition, which we have somewhere seen, that they are an English beverage for persons in health, calculated to fortify Nature, it may be questioned whether the moderns are wiser than their ancestors in thus consigning them to oblivion. Be this as it may, we shall take the liberty of preserving a few of them; and, in the first place, that which is said to have been a great favourite of the beloved sovereign whose name it bears, viz. King William's Ale Posset. It is thus made:—

Take a quart of cream, and mix it with a pint of ale; then well beat up together the yolks of ten eggs and the whites of four, and put them to the cream and ale. Grate some nutmeg in it, sweeten to palate; then set it over the fire, and keep stirring it all the while. When it is thick, and before it boils, take it off, pour it into a china bason, and serve it up quite hot.

Thence it was ladled into glasses. One cannot visualise a large company sitting round individually sucking this concoction from little pots with spouts.

The large-size posset-pot with a spout is found in the earliest glass lists. It appears in John Greene's designs sent out to Morelli of Murano. The older name for it was "Wassall bowl"—Holme Harleian MS. 2033, pages 1-25, No. 44 (1663-82). The material was not confined to glass (W. A. Thorpe in *Glass Seller's Bills at Woburn Abbey*, page 205). Some have a cover and no spout, e.g. the one illustrated in Thorpe, Vol. II, plate xix. "Posset-pot—heavy lead glass. 11½ in. high. C. 1685, in the Saffron Walden Museum."

It will be observed that a definite date cannot be given to old glass. In pottery and porcelain the matter is rendered easy by marks on the pieces themselves or by records. We have few records of reliable dates concerning glass-makers and fewer still of glasses themselves. It is possible to engrave a date on glass with either a diamond or an abrasive wheel, but that does not guarantee the date of the actual glass itself. The nearest is given in the case of a Beilby of Newcastle or of one of Michael Edkins of Bristol: even a coin-glass can only tell you it was made after the coin was minted.

MID-GEORGIAN TABLE

To give an idea of the importance of the pyramid (see Mr. Hughes's article, February 2, 1945) on the table for syllabub service, below is set out the first course and second course, as they were arranged on the groaning mid-Georgian table, extracted from a contemporary book entitled *Henderson's Housekeeper's Instructor*, page 378. Each month has its various seasonable dishes; here is April:

First Course.

Crimp Cod and Smelts.

Chicken. Marrow Pudding. Cutlets à la Maintenon.
Breast of Veal in Rolis. Spring Soup. Beef trembougne.
Lamb Chops en Casserole. Pigeon Pie. Tongues.

Whittings boiled and broiled.

Second Course.

Ducklings.

Tartlets.

Black Caps.

Roast Sweet-bread. Jellies & Syllabubs. Oysters.
Stewed pears. Tansey. Loaves, Mushrooms.

Ribs of Lamb.

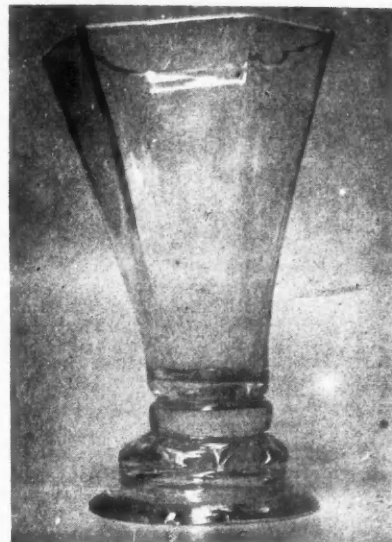
The table was apparently cleared between the first and second courses, and dishes, etc., placed in positions as set out above. From the arrangement of the dishes one can see the tables had rounded ends, as did so many of the Hepplewhite or Sheraton type.



2.—HOGARTH GLASS. Purlee decoration with the ringed base of Newcastle glasses of the Greenwich metal dated by Mr. Ivan Napier "as being a product of from 1710-1725" (From the Bacon Collection)



3.—SWEETMEAT GLASS. With the familiar knopped stem of the type made at the Newcastle factory. Dated by Mr. Napier as between 1725 and 1770. From its general design it appears to be 1730



4.—A LYNN 6-SIDED HOGARTH SPIRIT GLASS. Two are clearly seen to the left in Hogarth's *Midnight Modern Conversation* (Fig. 1)



5.—A LYNN HOGARTH. With the familiar ring decorations. (From the Napier Collection). It might also be a jelly glass



6.—SWEETMEAT GLASS. With wide wrythen stem, gadrooning at the base of the bowl and folded foot. 3½ ins. Circa 1685 (From the Bacon Collection)



7.—SPIRIT GLASS. "Nipt diamond waies." The base below the knop similarly decorated. c. 1685. This might also have been a jelly glass (In the Bacon Collection)

GO IN FOR ROSY

A Golf Commentary by BERNARD DARWIN

A FRIEND paid me the other day the compliment of saying that something I had once written had amused him. With a natural and I hope innocent vanity I enquired what it was, and when he told me I had not, nor have I now after cudgelling my memory, the faintest recollection of it. However, as the joke was in any case not mine and I was merely the reporter, I may here set it down again. It appears—I take my friend's word for it—that there was some sort of ladies' match at Stoke Poges, that an American lady saw her ball hovering on the brink of the hole, that she thereupon stamped her foot on the ground, exclaiming loudly "Go in for Rosy" and the ball obediently fell in. Whether her own name was Rosy or whether it is a traditional expression of obscure origin I know not, but it does strike me as a rather pleasant one. My friend says that he had tried it constantly ever since, and if and when I ever putt again I shall certainly adopt it. "Go in for Rosy"—I must make a resolute attempt not to forget it this time.

No doubt we have all addressed the ball in such circumstances, generally under our breath and in possibly unprintable terms. How oddly are very trivial things imprinted on the memory! In my first term at Cambridge, which is now more than fifty years ago, I was one day playing a match with one of our two professionals at Coldham Common and managed to beat him at the last hole. He had a putt to halve the match and as the ball slithered towards the hole over the glutinous mud he said to it in a ferocious tone "Get in, you tiger." But the mud held; the ball remained on the lip. I can see it all clearly now and know exactly from which side of the hole he was putting. No doubt the anxiety of the moment and the glory of beating a professional fixed those sufficiently commonplace words in my memory. At any rate I have been saying "Get in, you tiger" ever since, though with remarkably little success. I have not found it an "Open Sesame" to the hole.

The ball is presumably in no way amenable either to prayer or exhortation, and yet there are occasions when it seems to recognise its master and to do his behests. When Mr. Tolley starts walking after it it nearly always knows its duty and falls in with perfect docility. Dear old Sandy Herd was, I think, the most palpably hortatory putter I ever saw. As the ball neared the hole and showed signs of stopping short he began to wave it on with his club, and the wavings grew more and more rapid, even as did his waggles on the tee, as the supreme moment approached. Sandy was a good putter but rather inclined in moments of stress to be short, and it is the too cautious putters rather than the bold ones who indulge in pantomime. I do not know of any corresponding gesture calculated to stop the ball in its too headlong flight. Perhaps my American lady would have cried in agony "Sit down for Rosy," but if she did I do not appear to have reported it. Freddie Tait, who was certainly a bold putter, had a curious trick—I must have mentioned it before—of thrusting out his right foot as the ball showed signs of going in at the end of a long putt. It was particularly characteristic of him, but I have seen other people do it too. Possibly it represents some working of "the subconscious" which psycho-analysts could explain.

I have still in my mind the clearest possible picture of Mr. Walter Travis when he won our Amateur Championship and holed such desperate putts on the big Sandwich green, but in these pictures there is no movement, not even of an eyelid. He simply stands there like a sinister statue watching the ball as it runs, and if there is a little malign gleam in his eye as it drops at last I cannot see it. He had all the expressionless immobility of the professional billiard-player and so had that other great American putter, Jerry Travers. There have been some more demonstrations. I was re-reading the other day in J. H. Taylor's autobiography the account of his match with Andrew Kirkaldy at St. Andrews before the championship of 1895.

Andrew had what J. H. calls "a dirty putt of a couple of feet" to halve the home hole and win the match. He and his brother Hugh, who was carrying for him "studied the putt from every angle, until the elder gave the ball a dab with his trusty wooden putter and in it went. Immediately Andrew flung the club yards into the air and caught it again like a conjuror." I am afraid in these more decorous days we may not see such a scene again.

Whatever we may or may not say to our ball I suppose there is no one of us who has not tried to steer it on its right path by some singular and probably quite unconscious contortion of the body. When I think of such prayerful antics I do not see in imagination those of illustrious persons but rather of an old friend, long since dead, with whom I used sometimes to play at Aberdovey. He was by no stretch of imagination a good player and had ample opportunities of trying to recall his ball to the straight and narrow path. This he did by balancing on his left foot and making strange patterns in the air with his right or, as skaters would call it, his unemployed leg. His was at such moments not unlike the attitude of Eros at Piccadilly Circus, though I must add that there was no other similarity. As I see him I am reminded of some verses of T. H. Bayly's:

Oh! he looks of all things
Like a Corpulent Cupid bereft of his wings.
I do not think that he was aware of his strange
gyrations, but here I may be doing him injustice.

HOME-MADE WINES & APERITIFS

By HELEN MAY

THOUGH the term wine is correctly applied only to the fermented juice of the grape, yet in common usage all the fermented drinks made from fruit, roots and flowers, are called wines by the country folk who make them. In the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries such wines were regularly made in English country houses. Judging from old cookery books, home-made wines appear to have grown much sweeter during the nineteenth century, using far more sugar, and possibly for that reason they fell into disrepute with the sophisticated, though they were still being made in Kent cottages and farms up to the war.

During the war, and the present post-war scarcity, country wines have been little made owing to lack of sugar. In one of Jane Austen's letters, she says she might have to *buy* currants to make their wine. It was apparently so much a matter of course in her day that she mentions no details of the wine-making, and we are left to guess whether she preferred her wine sweet, or as dry as her wit.

"Wine that maketh glad the heart of man" is mentioned by the psalmist (Psalm civ, 15) as one of the blessings bestowed by Heaven. Unfortunately, like many other blessings, it has been reft from us. A Socialist M.P. recently declared that whisky is a rich man's drink, which is true enough while it carries a duty of 18s. 4½d. a bottle. There remains beer, a drink that does not suit everybody.

People who do not take sugar in tea, and whose households contain no young children, can save about half their sugar ration. With a small reserve of sugar, it seemed to me worth while to try to use a full orchard to help an empty cellar. By making experiments with small quantities now, I thought, I should know better what to make in bulk when sugar is available. For even if that happy day be far distant, I fear that the day when we shall be able to order full supplies of foreign wines at reasonable prices is even more remote. This article is the story to date of my experiments, some of which are still incomplete.

As my desire was to save sugar and suit the taste of my household, I aimed at making a palatable substitute for *vin ordinaire* and some

Once on being congratulated on holing a long putt he replied with perfect solemnity that he was a mathematician and had often found his knowledge of planes and angles useful on the green. So perhaps he was describing geometrical figures with his right foot. Poor D! his was a temperament rather liable to malignant suggestion. On one occasion in a foursome his side had three for the hole and one of the opponents proposed to give up the hole. "Oh, no," said the other, "D might putt into the bunker." And D, rather hot and flustered, did putt down a hill and into the bunker. Then the opponents, like true, chivalrous gentlemen, gave up the hole.

It must be accepted as a law of Nature that what we do after the ball has flown cannot affect its flight; but there are some such laws in which we had much better not believe too devoutly. There is the matter of following-through, for instance. If we try to attain a chaste and classical finish, like that of Harry Vardon in innumerable photographs, there is a faint hope that we may not stop the club almost before it reaches the ball. Or again, if we try to end the shot with both feet planted rock-like on the ground in the manner of J. H. in a wind, we may perhaps stand reasonably still in the act of hitting it. This may not be a truly scientific way of regarding the mystery of golf, but there is some sound, practical common sense in it for all that. The lady who said "Go in for Rosy" may have been a mere slave to idle superstition, but she holed her putt.

apéritifs which could be used to revive the weary before meals, or offered to friends in lieu of a cocktail. For two or three of my experiments I can claim success, and others are still in the making.

Time is an essential ingredient for most wine, and home-made wines need a year to mature. Some wines, notably plum, however, are pleasant at six weeks old, and I recently drank a cocktail which, my hostess told me, was composed of very young plum wine and a little gin. The wine was made with only 2 lb. of sugar to the gallon, and was much enjoyed by all the party. Had it been kept to mature more sugar would have been necessary, as the whole of the sugar would have been converted into alcohol and no trace of sweetness would have been left, making the flavour excessively dry.

I have used both new damson and new plum wine for cooking pigeons or partridges in casserole, with very satisfactory results. Perry, made from the juice of ripe pears and no sugar, is better for cooking fish than cider.

There seems to be a lack of books to help the tyro who seeks to discover the principles of wine-making. Such books as I have found merely record recipes which differ extensively and apparently capriciously in their amounts of sugar, fruit, hot or cold water; the time required for fermentation before bottling, and in their recommendations on how long the wine should be kept in bottle. Many of these recipes require ingredients that are not possible to-day, such as large quantities of Malaga raisins, oranges and lemons, pure proof spirit, French brandy, and so on.

Brandy is so frequent an ingredient that I was relieved to find a writer who said: "Spirits should not be added. The wine is not properly brewed if it needs spices and spirits to bolster it up. Of its own self it should develop a heat and body equal to whisky." Unfortunately she does not say how long that will take, and she rather inconsistently includes spices in many of her wine recipes. In my own—extremely limited—experience, I think that wines are fresher and more wholesome for not being fortified. I have found them sufficiently alcoholic, for wines, unlike whisky, are drunk undiluted.

Regarding the amount of sugar, a Penguin book (*Preserves for all Occasions*, by Alice Crang) contains some notes on wine-making. In that book 2½ lb. of sugar to each gallon is suggested as suitable for wine made from fruits or sweet vegetables and 2½ lb. to 2¾ lb. for flower wines, or if a sweeter type of wine be preferred. It continues, "Many recipes recommend 4 lb. or more per gallon of juice, but as the extra sugar is not converted into alcohol the result is a wine which is too sweet for many people."

Damson wine is usually made without yeast, as it ferments very easily and becomes a palatable beverage after a year. From damsons I succeeded in making a bright, clear wine, soft on the palate and dry. The method was:

September 4, 1944.—1 gallon of fruit, i.e. 1½ pints sliced, and the rest damsons, were put into a crock with 1 gallon of boiling water. These were stirred and mashed daily with the hand

until September 18, 1944, when I added 3 lb. of sugar. October 4, 1944.—I strained it off through double muslin into a large stone bottle, which was corked and placed in the cellar.

March 1, 1945.—I bottled it off (straining carefully). It tasted very sour.

August 15, 1945.—We opened our first bottle and found it a very pleasant drink. It was much liked by several men friends; one thought it too dry; everyone else thought it just right.

A second lot of damson wine which, in my ignorance, I made with yeast (½ oz. to the gallon) in October, 1944, was stronger, but very harsh in taste until November, 1945. Even then it was still too acid for my taste, although others drank it with pleasure. I am keeping it to see how it develops. In August, when it was bottled, it had a harsh, almost tarry, taste, but that had disappeared by November. A

change appears to take place in wine every three months. Wine which may be very acid at six months may be very good at a year.

Last April, finding myself, for the first time for years, possessed of an orange and a lemon at the same time, I decided to reduce the dandelion crop in the garden and try a recipe for dandelion wine which required one orange and one lemon. There are many and various recipes for dandelion wine; mine was:

1 gallon of dandelion flowers, 1 gallon of boiling water, 1 orange, 1 lemon, 3 lb. sugar, 1 inch whole ginger well-bruised, ½ oz. yeast on a slice of toast.

METHOD—Wash the dandelion flowers well, then cover with the boiling water. Let stand 3 days, stirring often, before squeezing the flowers out. Put the liquid into a pan, add thin rinds of lemon and orange, the sugar, the ginger and the orange and lemon sliced. Boil for thirty minutes, let cool. Ferment for 6 days, then strain and bottle, corking loosely till all fermentation ceases.

In June, I strained and bottled it. It was then very pleasant in flavour, and tonic in effect, but far too sweet. In August it was still too sweet. I then found another recipe which said that dandelion wine should be kept for a year before drinking, so I am leaving it until next April in the hope that fermentation will have used up some of the sugar. It is clear to me from this experiment, however, that dandelion wine could be made with very little sugar, say 2 lb. to the gallon, and drunk when new. It is stimulating and refreshing as an apéritif.

Then, greatly daring, I tried to make wine without using sugar, as true wine is made from grapes. Grapes contain more natural sugar than any English fruit. The sweetest English fruits, ripe black cherries and ripe greengages, contain only 14 per cent. of sugar against the

20 per cent. of grapes. In pursuit of this idea I tried crushing 12 lb. of sweet cherries, without water and allowing the juice to ferment, which it did strongly. When strained off it was sweet and alcoholic. I put it hopefully into a stone bottle and corked it down to mature. After a month it had turned very sour. After four months it was less sour but also less alcoholic and rather tasteless. So I added 2 lb. of sugar which caused it to ferment again and improved the flavour. It promises to turn into a good wine. Since making it, I have found in Hannah Glasse's *Art of Cookery* (1774) a similar recipe for cherry wine, made from juice without water and using only 2 lb. sugar to the gallon.

From the pulp left from the black cherries after straining off, I made a good apéritif by adding some cooking cherries and ½ lb. (gleaned) wheat and boiling water. The liquor strained off measured ¾ gallon and I added to it 2 lb. sugar and ½ oz. yeast. Bottled off after three months it was beige-pink in colour, and at four months could be drunk as a pleasant apéritif. It resembled a light, dry sherry in taste, though not in colour. The last bottle is being kept to test at a year old. The starch contained in wheat, barley, etc., becomes sugar in process of fermentation. By its help, therefore (I believe the right quantity to be 1 lb. to the gallon), one should be able to use less sugar and yet have a strong wine.

Raisins, like grapes, will make wine without sugar. Eliza Acton gives a recipe for raisin wine of which she says: "We have tasted wine made by it which had been five years kept, and which so much resembled a rich, foreign wine that we could with difficulty believe it was English made." For this is required 8 lb. raisins to each gallon of cold boiled water, to stand 12 months and then be drawn off and fined.

But who has 8 lb. of raisins?

A TRACTOR DRIVER SEES WILD LIFE

By J. K. DOBBS

ONE of the compensations to be set against the draw-tractors of landwork is the opportunity it gives of seeing the wild life of the countryside often at dramatic moments or ones not usually observed. Even from a tractor seat there is a great deal to be seen, mostly the affairs of rats, mice, rabbits and such small deer it is true, but even then well worth watching.

How many people have actually seen a field mouse's nest or a dormouse asleep curled up with its tail wrapped round it? While ploughing Autumn stubble I have turned up countless nests with baby mice ranging from tiny bright pink atoms which squirm helplessly and utter whispering squeaks, to active brown balls which gallop into cracks in the earth as soon as their nest is flung up in the furrow. The seagulls hunt these mice greedily, and often some unfortunate is tweaked out of a crevice by his tail and swallowed whole!

Only once has my plough turned up a sleeping dormouse, and it was interesting to note that they really do curl their long tails around themselves. It was impossible to wake him, so I put him into some dead leaves in the grass at the edge of the field, and in Spring he must have wondered if he had walked in his sleep?

There are usually many rats about during harvest, and in one very wet year when the corn remained built into little hand stacks in the fields until December, most of the stacks were full of rats when we came to cart them in. They had an unpleasant habit of suddenly popping out, often knocking into one's legs, and bolting for the nearest ditch. A running rat is extraordinarily difficult to kill with a pitch fork, as a hard slam generally misses the rat and breaks off the head of the fork with the force of hitting the ground; a swinging swipe which knocks them off their feet is the only effective method.

Rats usually turn to fight when cornered, but a coal black one I was chasing across open ground one day suddenly whirled round and sprang into the air at me, just missing me as I dodged. Another rat took refuge on the foot-plate of the tractor.

Rabbits are not interesting even when seen from a tractor seat, unless it's interesting to

note the lack of growth in that strip of new oats on which one has spent so much time harrowing and rolling and where they now spend so much time eating. They are stupid creatures and always contrive to get themselves caught in the knives of the machinery at hay-time and harvest. Occasionally, with the binder, they get shot onto the platform canvas without being caught by the knife, and are then carried up the elevators with the corn and thrown out with the sheafs, when they make a dash back into the standing crop, instead of getting away safely. Although it would be an exciting story to tell, I have not seen one actually tied up in a sheaf.

The strangest creature that ever went into the binder was a fat frog. Happening to glance back at the machine, I noticed him sitting serenely on the canvas as it carried him along the platform. He was hastily removed and placed in the grass at the edge of the field.

Hares are fairly plentiful here and in April and May there are young ones from a few days old in the fields. They seem to prefer cultivated ground, the brown soil acting as camouflage and when they "freeze," it is almost impossible to see them, and quite often they get run over by the rollers. The newly harrowed earth being soft they get pressed into it without being killed outright and on the return journey down the field one sees their feebly kicking limbs. It is a great temptation to go on and hope they will soon die, but I make myself stop and put them out of their misery. It is only the very baby

THIS CRESCENT MOON

THIS crescent moon, these slumbering pines,

This willow-herb bereft of seed,

Bring salve of beauty to the mind,

Give comfort when there is most need.

Scarcely a sound disturbs the dusk;

The air moves like an owl's soft wings.

And fresh resolve sustains my heart,

Grown weary of fate's buffetings.

N. L. BRIGHT.

hares that get run over, as the half-grown ones even when they "freeze" are betrayed by their bright eyes which seem to wink like a jewel.

Grown hares rarely get caught by the machinery. When hay or corn is being cut they leave the field as soon as it becomes dangerous, unlike the rabbits, which dart out of the still standing crop only to rush back into it.

The strangest thing that has happened to me in connection with hares was when, driving my tractor in top gear across a meadow, glancing back I saw something struggling in the grass. On going to investigate, I found I had run over an almost fully grown hare which must have been asleep in its form. Both offside tractor wheels and one trailer wheel had gone over it, but it was still horribly alive and had to be finished off properly. It must almost be a record for a tractor to run over such an active creature.

Foxes and stoats are not creatures one often sees, but once there was a fox in a field of wheat which remained hidden until the binder was taking the last cut of the crop. As the knife got near the end of the standing wheat three pheasants and the fox burst out of it; the birds flew squawking into the next field, but the fox trotted very calmly towards the hedge paying little attention to the stookers running in pursuit of him. While driving home on the tractor later, I again saw him heading across a big meadow to a wood and a man with me bemoaned the absence of a gun.

The stoat provided only one encounter, when it captured a rabbit. It was an extraordinary performance in which neither actor seemed aware of the tractor ploughing close by. The stoat was less than a quarter the size of its victim, which could easily have out-distanced it if it had run away, but it remained crouched in a hypnotic trance watching the stoat creep in ever decreasing circles round it. An approaching man chased the stoat, but the rabbit took some minutes to wake up; it appeared to be in a complete daze.

It is common knowledge that the ploughman plodding behind his team of horses sees more wild life than the average person, but the tractor driver doesn't do too badly either in this respect.

CORRESPONDENCE

OUR TIMBER RESERVES

SIR,—Mr. Ward's letter in your issue of January 11 constitutes a grave reproach to the administration conducted by the Forestry Commission for more than 20 years. One of the main obligations of the trust committed to their charge should have been as stated by the Act to:

Make advances by way of grant or by way of loan, or partly in one way and partly in the other, and upon such terms and subject to such conditions as they think fit, to persons (including local authorities) in respect to the afforestation (including the replanting) of land belonging to those persons.

They knew, or should have known:

(1) At the outset of 1919 there were 2¾ million acres of forest lands in private hands.

In the Annual Reports during the 20 years of their administration in no single case do they call attention to the inadequate planting of private lands until the 1943 Report on post-war forest policy.

(2) That these forests were not organised for full production.

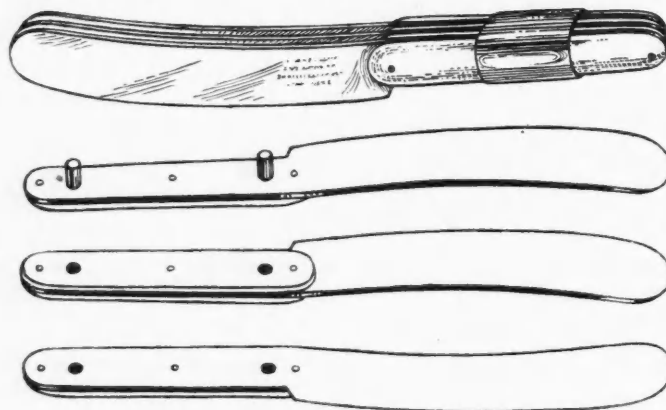
(3) That the landowners were suffering grievous financial hardships, including death duties. The Reports throughout the long period give no indication that they used their influence to secure any remission of taxation.

(4) That woodlands administered by the Forestry Commission were not taxed at all.

(5) That their efforts to improve the landowners' forests were achieving no success, and that the offers of assistance were wholly inadequate, although it is common knowledge that landowners can plant on a more economical basis than a Government Department.

(6) That the cost of planting was in the neighbourhood of from £20 to £35 per acre, and that the offer of £2 per acre for softwoods and £4 per acre for hardwoods, coupled with still more onerous conditions, was quite inadequate, and was not comparable with the cost of their own planting.

During the period of 20 years, on the 2¾ million acres awaiting re-afforestation they expended only £336,420, while on the one-third of a million acres they lavished £12,091,691. Yet, in spite of this neglect, the landowners were still able to contribute 90 per cent. of the



A GEORGIAN MASTICATING KNIFE

See letter: A Curiosity of the Dinner-table

supplies during the war. While it must be recognised that the 20 years of new production could not be expected to yield a great supply, the Commission still administered many large mature woodlands including:

Alice Holt	Hafod Fawr
Bedgebury	Hazelborough
Bere	New Forest
Chopwell	Parkhurst
Delamere	Salcey
Dymock	Tintern
Forest of Dean	Inverliever.

The foregoing fully justifies the expression used in an Editorial note on this subject in your issue of December 14 which says:

It seems obvious that . . . the Commissioners and their staffs will be far too busy with their own part of the programme to take over the planting and maintenance of the majority of private woodlands in addition.

—ALEXANDER I. HOWARD, Staplecross, Sussex.

A CURIOSITY OF THE DINNER-TABLE

SIR,—The enclosed drawing is of a Georgian triple table-knife which has recently come into my possession. As few of its type seem to have survived it may, perhaps, be of interest to your readers.

The knife (usually known as a masticating knife) was intended, as the name implies, for the use of people who found it necessary to cut up their food into very small pieces. In the days before artificial dentures the number of such persons was, no doubt, considerable.

For sharpening and cleaning, the three parts of the knife can be separated by removing the silver band which slips easily on and off the handle. The two outer parts of the handle are of ivory on one side and steel on the other. The middle section of the handle has ivory on both sides.

The knife illustrated was made in Sheffield about 125 years ago. I am told that a knife of a somewhat similar kind appeared towards the end of the Victorian era, but I have not so far come across this later type. —SYLVIA GROVES, 4, Lyttelton Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, 16.

WOODEN CHIMNEYS

SIR,—During re-roofing of some old cottages at Market Overton, Rutland, a few years ago, the remarkable chimney shown in the enclosed photograph was found.

Construction took the form of an open hearth or inglenook fireplace on the ground floor, with beam over opening at mantel level. From this point through the floor and first-floor room, up to roof tie beam, timbers were placed on three sides as studding, arranged to taper inwards towards the top; the fourth side was formed by end wall of cottage. The inside of timbering was lined with wattle and

daub to form the chimney, the outside being faced with reed plaster, concealing timbers in front but revealing them at the sides. From the tie beam up through thatch and carried about three feet above the ridge, the chimney was built in hand-made clamp bricks.

The plaster-work has been cut partly away to make the construction clearer in the photograph; cross timber shown at the top is the roof tie beam referred to. All timbers were of oak, the chimney was in regular use until a short time before the reconstruction of the cottage, and in spite of a very liberal coating of the interior with soot no sign of fire or charring was found.

The outer walls of the cottage are the roughly coursed limestone rubble, bedded in loam and pointed externally with lime mortar, so typical of old cottage building in this county. Internal partitions were of studding and reed plaster.

I know of only one other similar chimney. This is in the same county at Whitwell, so possibly this method may have been fairly common in the district at one time for buildings of the humbler sort, chiefly because of the space and labour saved. In the Whitwell example someone has contrived to build a more conventional brick flue up inside the older chimney and at some later date. —A. S. IRESON, Stamford, Lincolnshire.

A MOUNTAIN SHRINE

SIR,—The admirably illustrated article *A Mountain Shrine* describing Partrishow church (January 4) makes delightful reading to those who, like myself, have discovered this fascinating little church during war-time. I am glad that your contributor, while concentrating on the justly famous rood-screen, finds space to mention the coloured slate monuments which form an important secondary interest of the church. These tablets are the work of a local family named Brute whose descendants still live in the village of Llanbedr, two miles from Crickhowell. The colours were made from local vegetable dyes according to a recipe written in the family Bible. Unfortunately this Bible was lost about the middle of the last century and the present representatives of the Brute family, though still masons, no longer possess the secret of their ancestors.

I have discovered tablets signed by the Brutes and dating from 1719-1845 in at least a dozen churches in the Abergavenny-Crickhowell district, the finest being in Llangattock church near the Beaufort estates. The decorative motifs—cherub-heads, flowers, garlands, angels with musical instruments—combined with the fresh if crude colouring give these tablets a delightful and unexpected flavour of "peasant rococo" art seldom found in England.

When I was last at Partrishow,

Mr. Powell, churchwarden and present occupier of Tyn-llwyn farm, told me that at harvest festivals a "ring band" plays on the rood screen and candles burn once again in the sockets made for them in the sixteenth century. Until fairly recently Welsh harps were made at Tyn-llwyn and it is good to know that this musical tradition is not entirely lost. —JOHN P. HARTMAN, 5, Benet Place, Cambridge.

A WOODEN RELIQUARY

SIR,—My photograph shows the ancient wooden reliquary in Waisley church, Yorkshire, but formerly of Easby Abbey.

This reliquary (fifteenth century) is thought to be the only wooden one left in England.

It was probably used to contain the relics of St. Agatha, the Patron Saint of Easby. —J. A. CARPENTER, 48, St. Catherine's Road, Harrogate.

COUNTRY HOUSES AND DISABLED SOLDIERS

SIR,—There is one possible use for large country houses which I am surprised has not been mentioned in *COUNTRY LIFE*: it is no longer considered proper for a grateful nation to bestow a fine house on a great commander, but surely even a Socialist Government might approve of giving disabled soldiers lovely homes. I am very far from suggesting turning fine houses into institutions. Surely it would be possible to maintain some fine mansions as they should be run and quarter completely disabled men in them.

They could enjoy beautiful architecture, lovely furniture, music, pictures, books, gardens: in short the best products of the culture they gave so much to save.

Staffing such houses would of course need some management, but perhaps the principal members of the staffs could be recruited from those accustomed to such houses and—there is much talk of training young people for domestic service now—could not some of them be sent to spend their second year of training in such houses?

I offer the suggestion. —A. G. WILLIAMS, Fernbank, The Common, Dinas Powis, Glamorganshire.

CAT AND MAGPIE

SIR,—I was interested to read Richard Hodgkinson's letter, *Cat and Magpie*, and I venture to suggest that the cat and magpies may have been friends. I have heard it said that magpies often make friends with yellow cats. I myself have known two such cases. Some years ago we had a tame



THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE WOODEN CHIMNEY

See letter: Wooden Chimneys



ST. AGATHA'S RELIQUARY

See letter: A Wooden Reliquary

kind. There is nothing that delights a tame magpie more than to sidle up behind the household cat and pull her tail.—Ed.]

TOO LITTLE AND TOO MUCH

SIR,—Some of your readers may remember that it used to be said in the last century that far more babies were killed by over-feeding than by under-feeding. I thought perhaps two contrasting photographs showing the same principle applied to trees might be of interest.

One shows how surplus soil has been heaped up, by bulldozers used to clear a flat space, 12 or 15 feet high round mature Scotch pine on Bucklebury Common, Berkshire. The trees which have had the largest proportion of their boles covered (that includes the specimen most prominent in the

snapshot) have died: the needles were brown, though they had not yet fallen, when I passed with my camera. The other photograph, of a tree on Thetford Chase, shows how a Scotch pine may continue to live in a fairly healthy condition even when a large proportion of its roots are uncovered.—BYWAYMAN, Oxford.

CROSSBILLS AT A BIRD-BATH

SIR,—In COUNTRY LIFE of November 30 a correspondent tells how she saw three crossbills at her bird-bath and thought it most unusual. However, two years ago a pair of these birds used to visit a bath in the garden of a Minehead house, near the top of North Hill. They appeared at it regularly every four hours. Sometimes they would just drink, but they were very fond of bathing; and the photograph I send you shows the cock in the water, and the hen waiting impatiently for him to come out so that she may have a dip, too! —JOHN H. VICKERS, Moorlands, Minehead.

A SCOTTISH FIRE-BACK OF ABOUT 1600

SIR,—In 1901 the Victoria and Albert Museum acquired from Mrs. Starkie Gardner, wife of the author of *English Ironwork*, a collection of early cast-iron fire-backs and fire-dogs which she stated had been collected for her by a Mr. Hewett, architect, of Brighton. Among them was the upper half of a small fire-back depicting the royal arms of Scotland with crest and motto which would

seem to indicate a date before the accession of James VI to the throne of England in 1603.

No one has hitherto challenged the vendor's ascription to Sussex but there would appear to be at least plausible reasons for so doing. While many fire-backs were cast from impressions in the sand from a number of small models which might never be brought together again, it is clear that the present example was cast from a single carved wooden model, complete in itself and designed for repetition. Though some Sussex fire-backs bear the arms mostly of local notables

who may be presumed to have had a special interest in the industry, it seems most unlikely that a Sussex iron-master would have bothered to seek a market so remote as Scotland. Mr. Starkie Gardner in his paper, *Iron-casting in the Weald*, in *Archæologia* (56, 1898) noted a couple of fire-backs with the French royal arms which he suggested might have been cast about the time of the marriage of Charles I with Henrietta Maria but, after all, France is a natural market for Sussex.

If this fire-back was not cast in Sussex, the only alternative is to seek a place of origin in Scotland. In a paper which Mr. Ivison Macadam read to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland in 1886 he gave a list of numerous early iron-working sites but at only one was there anything to suggest that fire-backs were ever produced. This was at Letterewe, half way along the north-east side of Loch Maree. The first document known to Mr. Macadam was the record of the purchase in 1610 of the woods at Letterewe by Sir George Hay who wanted them for the use of his furnace. Sir George, who died in 1634, was the leading spirit in the Scottish iron industry at this time. Mr. Macadam, however, quotes a manuscript *History of the M'ras* which seems to show that the ironworks were in existence some years earlier, as in 1608 Farquhar M'Craa "was selected as the best fitted to serve a colony of Englishmen at Letterewe, engaged in making iron and casting cannon." Mr. Macadam does not seem to have investigated the documents on which this family history was based but the tale was not inherently improbable. The English government was much alarmed at the devastation of the English woodlands and as the result of repressive legislation the English ironworkers were certainly looking out not so much for fresh markets as for fresh working places. When Thomas Pennant visited the neighbourhood in 1772 the minister at Gairloch told him that he had "seen the back of a grate, marked S. G. Hay or Sir George Hay, who was head of a company here." We seem, therefore, to have fairly definite evidence that fire-backs were cast at this ironworks in Ross in the early years of the seventeenth century,



TOO MUCH SOIL

See letter: Too Little and Too Much

so it is not difficult to believe that one may have been cast there a few years before 1603. It may also be noted that another iron-foundry existed near by at the Red Smiddy near Poolewe, at the end of Loch Ewe, where cannons were cast, but nothing is known of its origin, though it appears to have gone out of business in the reign of Charles II.

It is usual to consider the Scottish cast-iron industry dates only from the opening of the Carron works in the middle of the eighteenth century. Can readers produce any further evidence as to the origin of the fire-back here illustrated or any other examples of ornamental cast-iron-work produced in Scotland in the seventeenth century?—C. C. OMAN, 13, Woodborough Road, Putney, S.W.15.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGES

SIR,—There are two things which I always like to read, the Bible and the *Countryman's Notes* in COUNTRY LIFE. Reading the latter recently I have noticed Major Jarvis's reference to red-legged partridges, and his query as to these being found in coverts or singly. I once shared a shoot with him on the White Horse Hill, Sutton Pointz, Dorset, where we picked up all sorts of game.

From experience I should say that



TOO LITTLE SOIL

See letter: Too Little and Too Much

here which tamed and made friendly with a wild yellow cat. Many times when I saw them playing together and rushed out to stop them, but I learnt to leave them alone.

They used to play for hours at a time with a ball or a dead mouse if the cat happened to have one handy, or just roll about together. I have seen the cat pounce on the magpie, rolling over and over with him, ears back and tail swishing: it always looked a most dangerous proceeding, but they never hurt each other. One day I found the cat asleep with Maggie sitting on top cleaning out the cat's ear with his beak. The cat did not seem to mind in the least. Maggie finally brought the cat to the house



THE CROSSBILL HEN WAITING FOR HER TURN

See letter: Crossbills at a Bird-bath

and after some weeks of coaxing it became tame with us too, though we could never take the liberties with it that Maggie did.

I have 200 feet of movie film of these strange friends playing together, but am sorry I have no photograph I can send you; if I can get any prints off this film I will send them.—M. L. HAMILTON, Irishman Creek Station, Fairlie, New Zealand.

[Our correspondent does not tell us what species of magpie was involved, but the common European magpie has likewise an eye for a cat, though usually of the impish, teasing



UPPER HALF OF SMALL FIRE-BACK WITH ROYAL ARMS, CREST AND MOTTO SUGGESTING A DATE BEFORE 1603

See letter: A Scottish Fire-back of about 1600

sometimes you find red-legged partridges in large coveys, more often perhaps singly or in pairs. I expect the explanation is that when the birds are young they remain in coveys for a time; afterwards the coveys break up and you find them singly. We always wished they would not run so much but take to the wing more quickly. Often I suppose it is they run as far as they can until they are forced to fly, having no more cover to hide them.

I expect also Major Jarvis remembers on the same hill a part much beloved by hares, where for some reason or other they loved to gather, and were not at all pleased to see us coming along. Also he may remember our game warden and the boy with the crooked legs nicknamed Warpy by his fellow villagers who liked to remind us that he had a title to his name. He henceforth was known as Lord Warpy.—CHARLES F. MEDCALF, *Jordan House, Preston, Weymouth.*

PRICE OF RICHMOND

SIR,—With reference to the interesting article on Thomas White of Worcester, I enclose a photograph of the old church of St. Mary-at-the-Walls, Colchester. The original church on that site was ruined during the Siege of Colchester in 1648, and remained an empty shell for more than 50 years. (It can be seen in that state in one of the illustrations to Duke Cosmo's travels in England in 1660). At length, in 1709, it was decided to rebuild the place, but it was found to be too ruinous and so was entirely built anew. The architect was Mr. John Price, of Richmond, in Surrey, who agreed to carry out the whole work for £1,154.

A brief was issued by authority of the Lord Chancellor, and the sum of £1,595 13s. 6d. was collected from churches all over the country during 1710 and 1711. The registers of St. Lawrence, Reading, record that the sum of 11s. 8½d. was collected there on May 21, 1711, towards this brief.

Work was begun in May, 1713, and was carried on with such speed that the building was ready for opening on March 25 in the following year. Only the lower part of the tower of the old church had been left standing, and a brick belfry was added to this in 1729 at a further cost of £234.

As can be seen from the photograph, the new church bore some resemblance to All Saints, Worcester, although about 10 years earlier. Unfortunately no picture of the interior has survived, but we know from a description that the design was similar to All Saints', with rows of Doric columns dividing the aisles from the nave. Morant's *History of Colchester* gives a considerable amount of details regarding the size of the building, thickness of walls, situation of galleries, etc.

Had this church survived it would

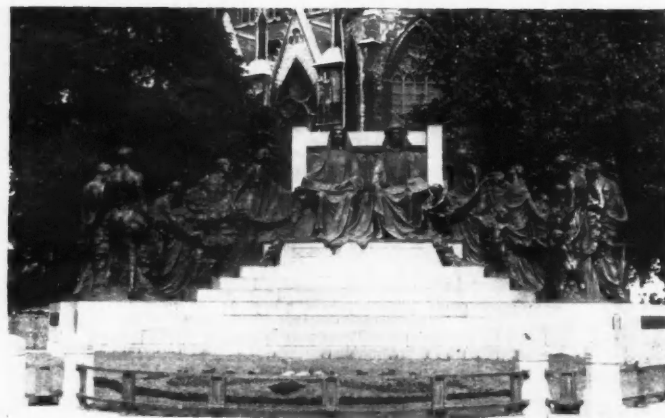
now be regarded as one of the chief ornaments of the town, but in 1871 it was needlessly destroyed to make room for the ugly brick "Gothic" church which now stands there. Only the old tower, with its brick belfry, survives as a memorial to both the mediæval and the Queen Anne churches.

The photograph was taken in 1870, just before the work of demolition began.—E. J. RUDDALE, *Wisbech Museum, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire.*

[Price of Richmond is probably identical with Price of Wandsworth, a mason-architect represented in MS. *Designs* of Sir John Vanbrugh for Kings Weston, together with Townshend of Oxford, to whom he may be compared. Apparently he had a son; this seems certain, since St. George's, Yarmouth, Norfolk, is known to have been built by both (1714). Price was certainly his own architect. Other work of his is known, but too little; he merits more study than he has received.—ED.]

WHERE IS IT?

SIR,—I took the enclosed photograph, among many others, either in Belgium or passing out therefrom into the Aachen district of Germany. I have unfortunately lost the record of subjects taken. Would one of your readers be so good as to say where the scene is located and what interest-



WHAT MONUMENT IS THIS?

See letter: *Where is it?*

ing story the figures tell?—P. MARSDEN, *Lytham St. Annes, Lancashire.*

CHANGING NATURE

SIR,—Major Hitchcock may be pleased to know that the sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*) is to be found at Bisley Camp. It grows luxuriantly on a secluded and marshy part of the heath, to the left of the long range, and to the rear of the running-deer. I have

to be the more common, appearing in all three districts, but I have found *D. longifolia* only in Berkshire.—G. R. HOWARD-VYSE, *Masham, Yorkshire.*

[Other correspondents have kindly replied to the following effect: Sundew seen flowering in 1935 on the Wyldes Estate, near Liss, Hampshire (Wing-Commander F. C. Rowland); on Thursley Common, near Hindhead, Surrey (A. L. Irvine); near the village of Sawrey, North Lancashire and (some years ago) in Langdale (Rachael Bates); by Rookery Pond on Short Heath, Oakhanger and Kingsley Pond (Edith M. Stanneth); *Drosera rotundifolia* in Westmorland (Geo. J. Parkinson); and *D. longifolia* in North Lancashire (B. L. Thompson).—ED.]

IN NAMAQUALAND

SIR,—From time to time we see illustrations of very primitive homes in the Hebrides and Western Ireland. Here you see the simple homes of the people of Namaqualand, the north-west part of the Cape Province of South Africa. The homes are either of plaited reeds or sun-dried mud. Besides copper and other metals Namaqualand has enough diamonds to make diamonds cheap were the ordinary laws of supply and demand allowed to operate. But the output is strictly controlled by the Union Government. Unbelievably strict regulations endeavour to ensure that no diamond shall leave the barbed-wire enclosed areas illegally. Every Spring for a few short weeks



THE HOMES OF NAMAQUALAND

See letter: *In Namaqualand*

frequently sought *Drosera* in likely places, but never found it elsewhere.—EDGAR SYERS, *Maidenhead Thicket, Berkshire.*

SIR,—I have found sundew in the Crowthorne district of Berkshire, on two Yorkshire moors and in the Pentland hills near Edinburgh.

Drosera rotundifolia would appear

Namaqualand is a blaze of colour with mile after mile of wild flowers of every hue.—J. E. MILES, *Cape Province, South Africa.*

POPE JOAN

SIR,—None of the versions of this ancient game described by your correspondents includes an essential part of our family rules and one that makes it much more interesting than Newmarket.

"Pope Joan" or the nine of diamonds is a joker and a stop. The holder may play it at any time with the command "Come at" which stops the play and leaves him, or her, with the next lead.

Even to the experienced bridge player there are entertaining problems in exploiting "Come at" to the best advantage as a holder; or trying, if that is not the case, to defeat the unwary possessor by reserving two or three stops to be played rapidly at the end.

The middle compartment of the board is for forfeits incurred for such lapses as "going to bed" with "Come at," failing to follow a lead or playing the wrong card. I think they were taken by the ultimate winners but were not usually enforced, as the game can be quite distressing enough for the young without that added woe.

The ring of pockets are to hold the stakes on the various honours indicated on the outer ring. The board is made to rotate so that the stake on an honour can be brought opposite the winner. With our board, which folded up like a chessboard, the coat-cuff of the winner of "Come at" was liable to scatter the counters on "Intrigue" if he was sitting by the latter.

Perhaps one of your readers may be able to say from which period the expression "Come at" derives, in this sense.

I learnt it from my mother who is over eighty, who learnt it from her mother who came from Foston, Mass., U.S.A., about the year 1850. It seems that the game was known here before then, but this may be an American version.

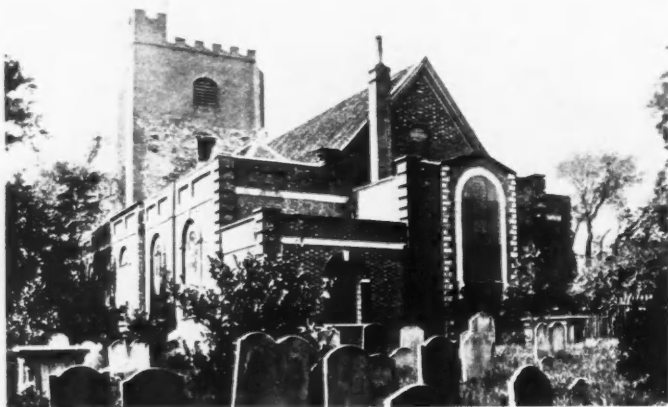
"Come at," in the sense of stop! has something of a Quaker air about it.—BASIL GRAY, *Avrathorne 139 Psalter Lane, Sheffield, 11.*

ANOTHER 1,000 MILES WALK

SIR,—With regard to recent correspondence, may I refer to a curious "sign-post" which was placed on the main road out of Crowl and not far from the famous Abbey, in Lincolnshire? The inscription thereon ran thus:

1000 miles
in 1000 hours
walked by Henry
Girdlestone at the
Age of 56 in the
year 1844.

—A. J. WATERFIELD, *Worthing, Sussex.*



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See letter: *Price of Richmond*

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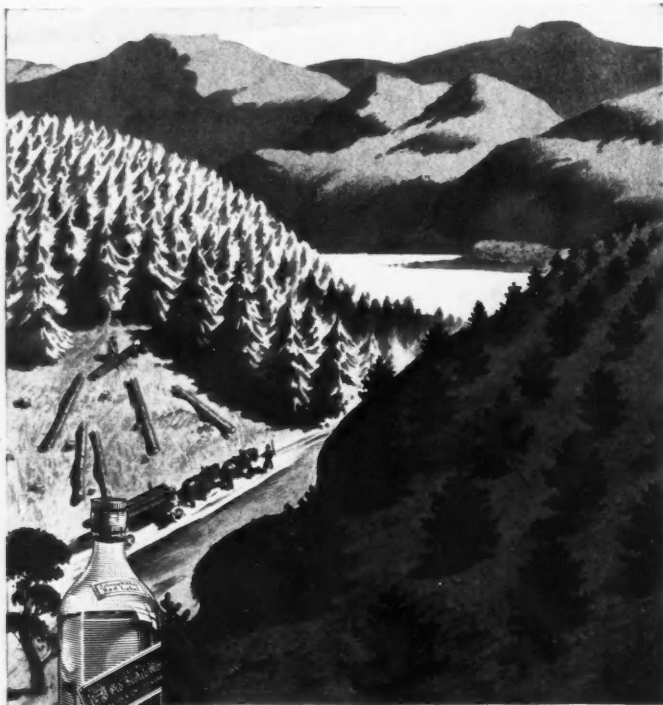
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NEW BOOKS

A REALIST LOOKS AT RUSSIA

Reviews by **HOWARD SPRING**

IN Mr. C. F. Strong's *Dynamic Europe*, which was reviewed here last week, the opinion was expressed that "the first business" of the United Nations "is at all costs to prevent the possibility of the resurrection of Nazism."

A reviewer has not always the space to express his own views; he must often be content merely to say what his author is thinking. I should have liked, for example, to differ from this opinion; and fortunately, I can do so this week while reviewing Mr. Peter Matthews's *European Balance* (Chatto & Windus, 8s. 6d.). Mr. Matthews says what I think myself about the possibility of a new upsurge of Nazism, and that is that the

emergence of Russia as the greatest power in Europe (within measurable time, possibly the greatest power in the world) has made a rebirth of German militarism an unlikely event. The possibility will no doubt remain an anxiety, but it is no longer a nightmare. Not, I imagine, that there won't be other nightmares. Each age has a habit of producing its own; and anyway nightmares are operative only when we go to sleep.

A GERMAN REVIVAL

Mr. Matthews says: "We now know that there will, in fact, be no return to the state of affairs which existed in 1919. For, even before the outbreak of the Second World War, the strength of Soviet Russia was progressively overhauling that of the German Reich. The strength of the Soviet Union is the guarantee that the German problem will not again arise in the form in which we knew it between the two wars." And again: "This time, although we can take it that the rearmament of Germany will not be tolerated, the new security system would be capable of surviving even if German rearmament were permitted."

But it is not to be overlooked that this "security system" is not something to be securely banked on. Already it has its tensions, and to me the most interesting part of Mr. Matthews's book is his frank examination of Anglo-Russian relationships. "Nothing," he rightly says, "could be more misleading than the belief that a war, fought in common, lays the foundation for co-operation after victory." He protests against the view that the problems which arise in the relationships between States can be "solved" once for all, as though they were problems in chess. "In fact," he says, "problems in international affairs are seldom, if ever, soluble" in this sense. There are always points of conflict and friction.

He suggests, however, one or two interesting thoughts that may be held to have validity in all circumstances. "People often speak and write of Anglo-Russian co-operation as though it depended mainly, or even solely, upon the attitude of Great

Britain. Now, obviously, if Great Britain were to oppose every legitimate Russian policy and aspiration, conflict would be inevitable. But a study of history suggests that the course of European history is determined primarily by the policy of the strongest European Power. Others may support or oppose that policy. But, in the relations between two Powers, one of which is markedly stronger than the other, it is, in general, the policy of the stronger which decides whether relations shall be friendly or hostile."

From this, it is clear to anyone looking realistically at Europe, that the primary question is not of keeping Germany weak but of keeping the war-

time Allies friendly.

"Having failed to deliver a knock-out blow against Russia in 1941, Germany has in future only one chance of delivering a successful attack. Her sole hope lies in fostering suspicion between Russia and the Western Allies. If a struggle for power developed between Russia and

the West, the Germans might hope to sell their support to one of the conflicting parties at the price of military revival. It is this fact which makes relations of confidence between Russia and the West so essential."

That there are forces working against that confidence he does not deny. That Russia should seek "security" is something that Britain could well understand and encourage, but, "equally, a Power which is constantly on the look-out for economic advantages outside its frontiers is liable to forfeit confidence."

His final conclusion is: "Any examination of Soviet policy must end on a note of uncertainty and inquiry. Russia seems more anxious to be feared than to be trusted; in her relations with her Allies she employs all the technique of the 'war of nerves' and of the *fait accompli*. This may well be the result of a deep suspicion for which, in the past, there have been grounds enough. But there are no longer any grounds for this suspicion. Only a catastrophic error of judgment on the part of Soviet Russia could bring about a conflict between herself and the West."

AN ANGLO-AMERICAN ALLIANCE

It is Mr. Matthews's view that an Anglo-American alliance, or an Atlantic alliance based upon it, would tend to deepen the Russian suspicion which it should be the task of statesmanship immediately to mitigate and eventually to dispel. Generally speaking, one may say that he has no great faith in alliances, federations and what not except as organisations within which "an atmosphere favourable to the pursuit of agreed policies" may be created. In themselves, they are not of much importance. For example, writing of the "veto" which caused so much discussion at Dumbarton Oaks, he says: "The stock argument

EUROPEAN BALANCE

By **Peter Matthews**
(Chatto & Windus, 8s. 6d.)

BEFORE THE LAMPS WENT OUT

By **Esmé Wingfield-Stratford**
(Hodder & Stoughton, 12s. 6d.)

advanced in support of the veto is that, if the Great Powers fail to agree, the World Organisation is, in any case, bound to fail. The unkind critic might carry the argument a stage further. If the Great Powers fail to agree, the World Organisation will break down. If they are, in any case, in agreement, it will prove superfluous."

I should hesitate to call Mr. Matthews an unkind critic, but he is certainly a realistic one who has a good deal to say that is worth listening to.

DICKENS'S CHALET

Seeing that Charles Dickens has been from my tenderest years the supreme object of my literary adoration, I like to have all the facts about him correctly stated. And so Mr. Esmé Wingfield-Stratford will, I hope, pardon me if I give some space to Dickens's Swiss chalet. In his book *Before the Lamps Went Out* (Hodder and Stoughton, 12s. 6d.) Mr. Wingfield-Stratford refers to his ancestor Lord Darnley whose home, Cobham, was not far from Dickens's house, Gadshill. Lord Darnley, says the author, "enjoyed the friendship of his neighbour, Charles Dickens, and had even built him a sort of glorified summer house, far from all risk of disturbance, to use as a literary workshop. It still, I believe, stands."

Unless Dickens had two "summerhouses," this is not so. The chalet of which Dickens writes in his letters was given to him by Charles Fechter, a French actor of German extraction, who became lessee of the Lyceum. It was a little "prefabricated" house in two storeys. There is a picture of it in Forster's *Life of Dickens* with trees besetting it and steps leading up to the front door. It came over from Paris in marked and numbered sections. The Dover Road ran along Dickens's garden, and he owned a shrubbery on the other side of the road. It was in the shrubbery that the chalet was put up. A tunnel for access was made under the Dover Road, and I have read that during the war just ended this tunnel was an air-raid shelter for children who used Gadshill as a school.

ROOM AMONG THE TREES

Dickens was very fond of the chalet and did much work there. "I have put five mirrors in the chalet," he wrote, "and they reflect and refract, in all kinds of ways, the leaves that are quivering at the windows, and the great fields of waving corn, and the sail-dotted river. My room is up among the branches of the trees, and the birds and the butterflies fly in and out and the green branches shoot in at the open windows." In the dusk, the nightingales sang there.

To me, the point of deepest interest about the chalet is that in those charming surroundings Dickens spent his last working day. Worn out with work, though he was not yet sixty, he went to the chalet on a charming June day, when it must have been full of green light. Usually, then, he wrote only in the mornings, but that day he returned to the chalet after lunch, as though obsessed with the thought of an unfinished task, and indeed, *Edwin Drood* was never finished. In the crabbed, spidery writing, full of interlinings and corrections—so different from the dashing hand of his youth—he came in that quiet place to the last words he was ever to write—"and then falls to with an appetite."

Then he went back to the house for dinner, which was ordered for six o'clock; and as he was eating he fell from his chair. The next evening he was dead.

Thus the chalet has an important place in English letters; and if, as Mr. Wingfield-Stratford suggests, it still stands, something should be done to preserve it now that so many Dickens relics are falling.

The title of this book suggests the mood of nostalgia in which it is written. Those who are contemporaries of the author will greatly enjoy his evocation, charming and serene, of a way of life which is gone for ever; and those who never knew that life can here find its flavour distilled by one who loved it but realises clearly enough its limitations.

BYGONE WAYS

It is the story of the early years that interested me most—the story of a boy growing up in the 'eighties in a society dedicated, above all things, to sport of every kind, and suffering from a complete absence of intellectual interest and stimulus. The author's view is interesting: that sheer boredom was the reason first for the dedication to blood-sports and later for the "cult of war and empire."

Looking back upon that life from the point of view of his present being, one author writes: "I do not feel, even now, that I should want to go back for longer than it would take to complete a rest cure. In the long run, I would sooner take the chance of being bombed or starved or controlled, than the certainty of being bored, to death."

ON AN IRISH RIVER

MRS. MANNING ROBERTSON writes a book on *Thrifty Salmon Fishing* (Herbert Jenkins, 8s. net) by which she means the kind of sport in which anglers do without expensive gillies, and think it a good day when they get two fish—three being excellent. The river upon which her experience centres is one brink of the Slaney, running for some distance upstream from her husband's place, Huntington Castle. He (whom many will know as an architect) does not fish, but contributes some elaborate maps of the water, showing the annual take at the various stands. Indeed I have never known a river to be subjected to such close examination: they seem to take its temperature daily, and apply certain other tests to decide how acid the water happens to be: apparently it is believed that such information will let you know whether to take fly or bait. My own experience of the Huntington water (and very pleasant it was) did not bring me in touch with these elaborations, probably of later date. However, those who care for fishing shop will find plenty of it in this book, agreeably talked.

The Slaney, which rises in the Wicklow mountains and comes out at Wexford, goes through prosperous country and is typical of Ireland's eastward-running streams. One regrettable fact is that grise and sea trout hardly come up. The salmon run from fair to good, and thirty-pounders are not unknown. But the best feature of that fishing was, and happily still is, Denis Lacey, "butler" (and everything else) at Huntington. He pervades this book; and it is worth going to that fishing to know how delightful such an Irish guide and philosopher can be.

Mrs. Robertson has a deal to say about "gear and gadgets," as is natural, for she makes most of her own. There is an interesting chapter, too, about the Shannon, and the effect on fisheries from the huge head-race, opened to give hydro-electric power. Here as elsewhere the text is helped out by a map: and on the whole the book is one that I can warmly commend to anglers in general; for most of what is in it can apply to other waters, in or out of Ireland, as well as to the Slaney. STEPHEN GWYNN.



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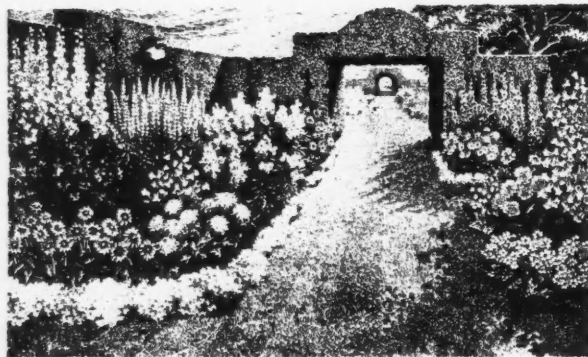
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FARMING NOTES

FRANCE'S FOOD PROBLEMS

FRANCE continues to have difficulty with her food supplies. Last year's wheat harvest was poor and the peasants are reluctant to deliver their wheat and potatoes. In Britain we are children in the ways of the Black Market. The French Government are now offering a premium of 20 francs for every quintal of wheat delivered before the end of January as well as a quantity of fertilisers. Fertilisers are also to be given as a reward for potato deliveries and wine and sugar-beet are to qualify, too. Later on these production premiums are to be extended to include agricultural machinery, clothing, shoes, fuel oil and other goods. These premiums will, of course, only be given against official deliveries. When I come to think about it I realise that we have something similar in our feeding-stuffs rationing scheme which allows additional feeding-stuffs coupons based on additional deliveries of milk. In the war years we were all required to make threshing returns showing how much corn had been threshed when the machine came round and these returns went in to the War Agricultural Committee offices. I never heard of any farmer being prosecuted for failing to sell wheat which he had threshed.

American Farm Products

AMERICAN farmers are being asked to recognise the world shortage of food and face their country's international responsibilities by helping to feed the other nations. Last year the United States consumed about 78 per cent. of the food she produced. About 10 per cent. went for military services and 12 per cent. was exported, most of the exported food going to the liberated countries. An eighth came to us in the United Kingdom. However fully American farmers respond to the calls for U.N.R.R.A. shipments, there will not be enough sugar, fats and oils to meet more than a fraction of the urgent needs. Wheat will form the backbone of American shipments this year. Meat will still be short in the world. As a footnote to these facts it is well to remember that in the United States the consumption of food during the war years has been 8 per cent. above the pre-war level. More could even so have been sold in the home market. What the economists call "a strong consumer income" would have taken up fully a 10 per cent. increase if some supplies had not been ear-marked for military requirements, and now for relief in Europe.

The Value of Old Grasses

WITH the soil wet and sodden in mid-Winter it is the greatest folly to let cows and heifers run on the new leys. The soil gets puddled and the young grass and clover is trodden out and weeds come in the Spring to cover the bare patches. The ideal is to let the herd run on the old grasses where they will lie dry. Even at the height of the ploughing-up campaign the War Agricultural Committees would generally allow a farmer to keep at least one old grass field for the cows in Winter. If the farmer's own enthusiasm for the plough led him to turn in all his old turf and his pastures are still tender he is well advised, if there is a wet spell that leaves all his fields sodden, to let his cows lie indoors and only turn them out for a few hours. In Holland it is the normal practice to keep the cows indoors all through the Winter.

"Searching" for Rats

AN Ulster farmer sends me an idea for chasing rats out of ricks which he says is strongly recommended

by the Northern Ireland Ministry of Agriculture. The method is known as "searching." It consists in pouring the heads of the stacks with iron rods, so inducing the rats to bolt, when they are killed by dogs kept in readiness. These iron rods are, I gather, made the same as the rods we use for testing the heat generated in our hay ricks when we put the grass up on the young side. Dark wet nights are the best for "searching," as rats bolt more readily in damp weather. It is best to wait until two or three hours after nightfall when the greatest number of rats are likely to be in the top of the stacks. Four men with two dogs and two torches constitute an ideal party for "searching." You must be quiet for this job. The rats will bolt readily when the rods are pushed into the top of the stack. This sounds like a cure for the farmer who suffers from insomnia, but I hope he does not get pneumonia into the bargain.

Sugar-beet Seed

FIFTEEN years ago 90 per cent. of the sugar-beet seed used in this country was imported from abroad. Just before the war 55 per cent. was imported. Now we are producing all the seed required for an increased crop and some supplies of British-grown seed have been sent over to the Continent for use in the devastated areas. This is a worth-while achievement on which the sugar-beet industry, growers and factories, deserve warm congratulation. Where should we have been after 1940 if the growing of seed had not been developed in this country? It is true that we have run into some widespread trouble from a disease called virus yellows. This is carried by aphides and if seed crops are grown in the same district as the ordinary commercial beet crops trouble is liable to spread. Maybe we can overcome it by segregating the seed crops in areas in the North and West where little beet is ordinarily grown. Presiding at the annual meeting of the British Sugar Corporation, Sir Francis Humphrys said that although the 1944 crop averaged only 8 tons an acre the stock-fee from sugar-beet tops remaining on the field was more than 17,000,000 tons, which is equivalent in feeding value to 225,000 acres of swedes. The dried pulp, which has much the same feeding value as oats, amounted during the war period to 1,612,000 tons. These figures illustrate that sugar-beet provides more food per acre for man and beast than any other crop produced in the United Kingdom. During the six years of war 2,84,160 tons of white sugar were produced from beet grown in our fields.

Old-time Ploughing

A BROADSHEET called *Agricultural Development* has come to me from the Dorset War Agricultural Committee. Among other items it contains a reprint of a report by the Dorchester Agricultural Society's ploughing match in 1845. There were 34 ploughs in operation, including 6 with oxen, and 4 for youths under 17 years of age. The rest were two-horse ploughs, 11 without drivers and 13 with drivers. Men and boys, as are told, commenced work with the best spirit and acquitted themselves generally in a most creditable manner. What would these worthies say if they could come back to earth and attend a ploughing match in 1946 with crawler tractors taking five horses and the horse teams relegated to a minor part and regarded as little more than an interesting survival in farming practice? CINCINNATI

THE ESTATE MARKET

BUSINESS IN 1945

A GLANCE at about 40 or 50 reports by auctioneers and estate agents on business in 1945 reveals one point of general agreement: that the demand for real property considerably exceeded the supply in the market.

TOTALS OF TURNOVER

COMPARING the reports with those issued in pre-war days a striking fact is the omission to mention even approximate totals of turnover. This involves no sacrifice of information that is worth having, because few firms enabled a comparison to be made by repeating such figures as they happened to have given in the preceding year, and it prevents the drawing of exaggerated inferences concerning the aggregate volume of transactions. Such exaggeration used to arise from the fact that, as the majority of real estate dealings mean the employment of a couple of firms, one for the vendor and the other for the purchaser, a single sale very often figures twice over, the vendor's agent stating it as a sale, and the purchaser's agents presenting his side of the bargain. The most laborious compiler of totals was therefore no nearer the ascertainment of the true aggregate of the realisations than if he had had no figures at all, inasmuch as the cumulative error of duplicated amounts might conceivably reach millions of pounds. Another thing that nullified the utility of published totals was that many of them included local shares or reversionary interests and insurance policies, and that some of the totals omitted the results of private treaty transactions. But in any case totals were apt to vary capriciously from year to year and probably few of them represented more than the roughest of rough estimates.

FARMS REACHING THE PEAK

ALL the reports on 1945 agree that there is no enquiry for building sites; that all types of urban freeholds and leaseholds are eagerly snapped up and that farms are the most saleable of all property. Significantly some agents hint that agricultural land is not fetching quite as much as it did two or three years ago. They attribute this partly to a belief that the peak has been reached, and it may be that any slight slackening in demand is consequent on farmers looking less favourably on ownership than tenancy. As tenants they have more working capital and more freedom of movement from one district to another if a tempting chance of a good holding with possession comes their way. Remembering what followed the wave of buying during the "break-up" auctions of 1914-19—forced re-sales for want of working capital—a certain proportion of farms that have in the last year or two been sold cannot be considered as permanently out of the market, much as matters have of late tended to the advantage of the farming community. "Break-up" sales are by no means over, and abundant funds are available at low rates of interest to finance farmers of proven ability, but the traditional partnership of landlord and tenant retains substantial advantages.

HARRODS ESTATE OFFICES

UNPRECEDENTED is a term applicable not only to the military and international events of 1945 (says Mr. Frank D. James, the manager of Harrods Estate Offices, in his annual report) but to the property market. "Without trying to portray, in their exact sequence of

importance, some of the tendencies and experiences regarding realty in 1945, a few of them may be usefully recalled. The first thing to note is that the intensified enemy action, in the form of flying-bombs and rockets, seriously impeded business in the southern counties for some months, and made it difficult to transact business in London. But the spirit of confidence and courage that had illuminated the other war years kept the property market steady, and the recovery was very marked after VE-Day, and it has been more than maintained ever since.

"Throughout 1945 Harrods Estate Offices negotiated the sale or purchase and tenancy of country residential freeholds, in number quite up to the average, in the early and troubled months, and far exceeding the average in the concluding months of the year. Prices ruled uniformly higher as the year progressed, and, whatever inferences may be drawn from it, a striking fact was that the superior type of property, ranging from £10,000 upwards, was more often offered than the less costly and, it is gratifying to add, soon sold, at or near the quoted prices. Nothing has happened since to suggest that anybody would have derived one iota of advantage if the abortive scheme of control of selling-prices of houses had been in force. Experience every day proves that the valuation of country houses is a much more exacting task than in pre-war times, necessitating examination not only of the property but its surroundings, in view of recent or impending fundamental changes in the character of many districts."

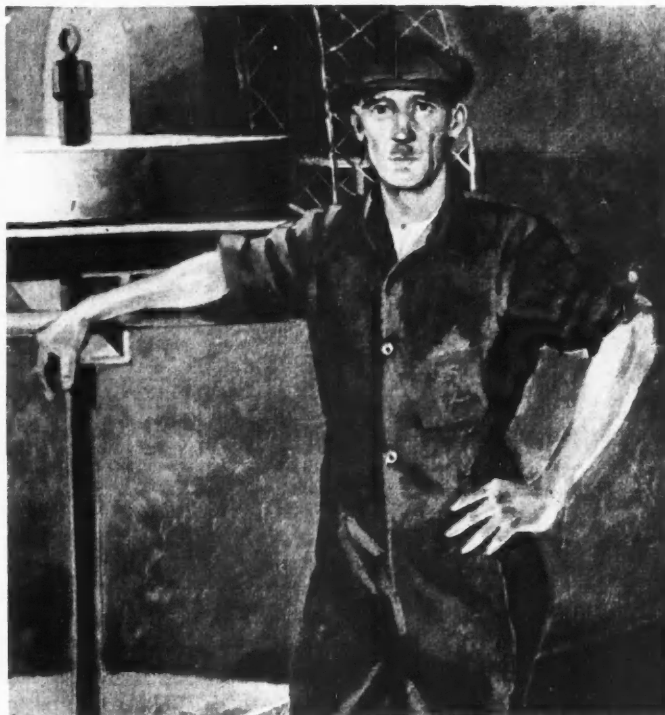
KING PETER OF YUGOSLAVIA

KING PETER OF YUGOSLAVIA is about to sell Little Manor, his Elizabethan house at Egham, Surrey. Messrs. Gosling and Milner are his agents. The old but well restored residence stands in extensive gardens which have been the special object of King Peter's own attention.

"A SENSE OF FRUSTRATION"

WHATEVER monotony of expression may mark agency reports it does not extend to the pronouncements of the chairman of property-owning companies. An example was the speech of Mr. P. M. Rosedale, at the twenty-third general meeting of Town Investments, Limited. He said that the net loss of income from properties owned by the company, or its subsidiaries, which had been destroyed or rendered unfit for use through war damage, exceeds £14,000 a year. But so great had been the call for residential and other accommodation that all the remaining property of the company was fully let. With the rise in the cost of commodities or, if they preferred it, the fall in the value of the £, real property was tending to increase in monetary value. After five instalments of war damage contribution had been paid property owners had no more to pay under that head. He believed that many people had too lightly assumed that cessation of hostilities would be followed by a speedy restoration of the buildings damaged or destroyed by enemy action, the derequisition of properties held by the Government at annual "compensation" rentals fixed in days of unexampled depression, and the general revival of trade and commerce, and that businesses developing or rebuilding, property could go ahead and thrive. Many people no doubt felt a sense of frustration in regard to these things.

ARBITER.



Painted by J. Kynnerley Kirby.

ALFRED BERRY is an example of the old regular soldier finding his place in the chemical industry.

His working career illustrates a characteristic of chemical manufacture — how one chemical can be used as the base for a variety of products. A native of Stowupland, Mr. Berry served 7 years in the Suffolk Regiment before entering a nitro-cellulose works in 1913. As an Army reservist he rejoined his regiment on the outbreak of war in 1914, was wounded and made prisoner at Le Cateau.

On repatriation in 1919 he went back to his old job. In that year the factory, which till then had been using nitro-cellulose as the base for explosives, turned over to making it into a range of lacquers and finishes needed by the furniture and leather trades and particularly by the expanding motor-car industry. The development of cellulose lacquers, which dried in minutes, were waterproof and could be made hard or flexible, was an important step towards the production of the popular-priced car, for which the demand was then beginning. During the war Mr. Berry's work was extended to take in many secret products of direct military use.

As a charge hand in his old factory he had the satisfaction of knowing that his efforts helped the Royal Navy, the Army, and the Royal Air Force in which his two boys are serving.



A New EVENING DRESS

Cap sleeves, a low-cut neckline, a deep swathed waistband, a skirt all limp folds. The material is powder blue crepe. Designed by Bianca Mosca for Jacqmar



BUCKLEY STUDIOS



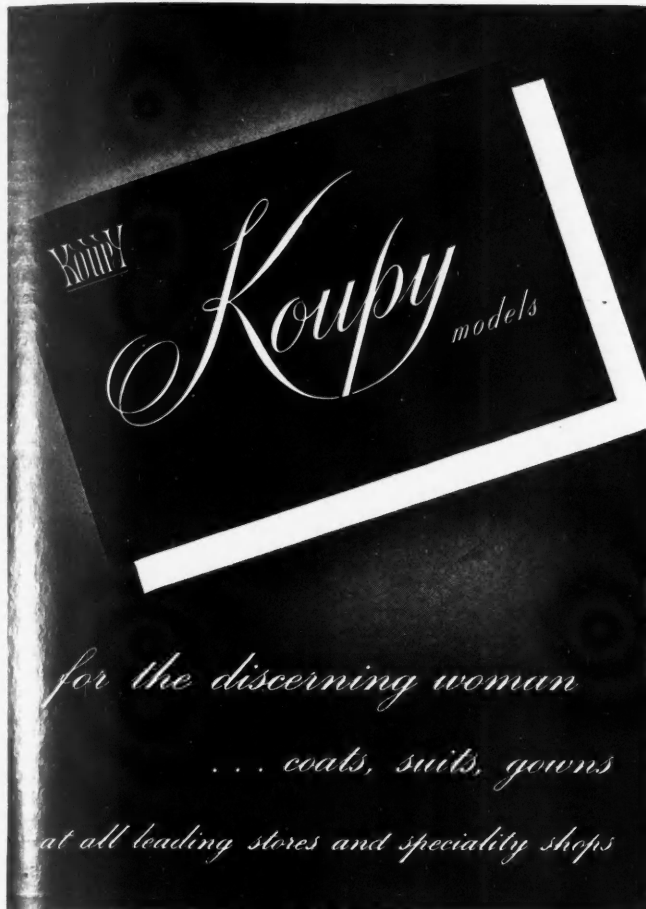
Natural Russian sable bolero, designed by Molho to fit snugly over a deep waistband



A blue and crystal quaking grass spray for the hair or décolletage, a topaz and gold filigree bracelet, topaz drops on a gold choker. Ships

EVENING frocks are being worn again at many of the Winter social functions, not the backless, strap décolletage but frocks that are cut high to the throat to cover the shoulders. The frocks are ankle-length, are usually slashed to a low V in front or scooped away to a low heart-shaped or wedge décolletage. Some are slit under the arms almost to the waist under padded, stitched or studded epaulettes. All have sleeves of some sort or another—the newest mere caps of material just covering the tops of the arms. The starkly tailored dress with long plain sleeves is disappearing fast, but while the Winter dinner dresses look distinctly more feminine with their deep shaped waistbands and fluid skirts, shortage of material keeps them comparatively slim. They are made in sand crêpes and marocains, in romaine, heavy georgette.

The nylon taffetas that are appearing everywhere in the New Year are bound to bring a change in style, as their crisp, airy texture demands a full *bouffant* skirt, balloon sleeves, ruches and frills. Some enchanting designs on nylon (that looks like a stiffened Japanese silk) are being shown by Ascher, some printed, some hand-painted. Colours are brilliant, and the widely spaced designs in dark or bright shades on lilac, lemon, ice blue, blush pink, look as though they were traced in brushwork. Two stylised cyclamen flowers and a leaf or two make a spray, the design boldly executed in ruby on white, in black on a lilac or a pale lemon ground. A stripe of flowers that looks as though it had been stencilled on in water-colours is carried out in garnet violet on a clear lilac, in carbon blue or translucent lemon. The hand-painted designs achieve even greater clarity of colour. A white nylon taffeta painted with a trellis in carnation pink has sprays of tulips, carnations, lilac, hand-painted in mixtures of impressionist colours. These nylons will be on sale in this country—

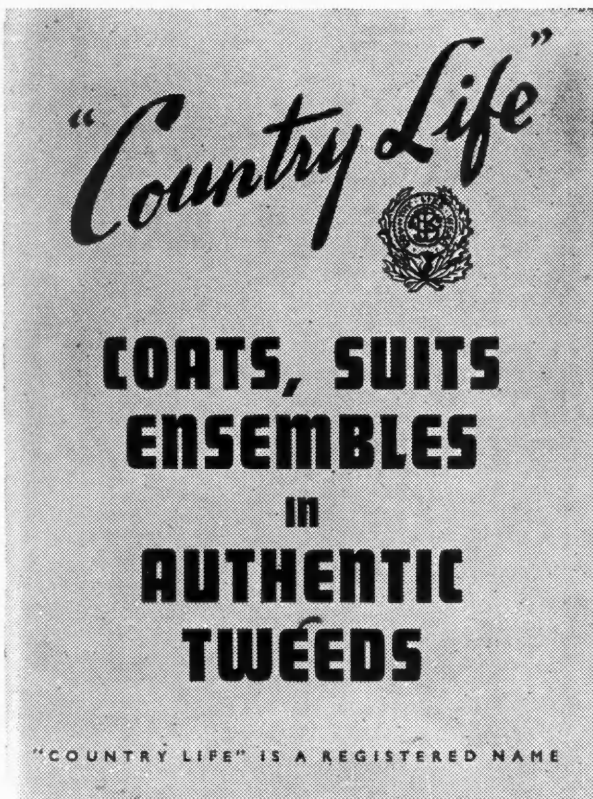


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Man-tailored suit in fine quality herringbone suiting. Bottle Green or Wine Mixture. Jacket fastens high and has two pockets. The skirt has double pleat in front and plain back. Hip Sizes 35, 36, 37, 38, 40.

13 Gns



Personal
Shoppers
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Attractive Suit for the smaller figure made in Navy, Green or Brown Hopsack. Jacket fastens high, with four buttons. Skirt has double inverted pleat in front, plain back. Hip Sizes 35, 36, 37, 38.

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Oxford St. and Regent St.
W.1

(1 and 2) Printed nylons for Summer evening frocks—cyclamen flowers and leaf in ruby red on white that looks as if it were done by brushwork, and lines of parma violets on a lilac ground. (3) Spray and pennant design in black on white pure silk crepe-de-chine for export. Ascher fabrics

a cheering thought—and bordered squares and scarves in the same bright clear shades will be ready by the end of the month. Some pure silk crêpes are being shown by Ascher for export. One delightful design is a mixture of pennants and formal sprays of tiny flowers that look rather like the spray brooches that have been so fashionable as lapel ornaments. It is traced in black on white and is intended for the tailored type of dress and jacket that Molyneux has made famous.

A NUMBER of these fabrics are included in the exhibition of British textiles and fabrics at Foyles, sponsored by the British Institute of Adult Education. A Topolski print is included, a splashy-brilliant design of palms, giraffes and jungle foliage, that has been made up into a looped dress by Matilda Etches. The prints shown at this exhibition are notable by the absence of the flowers and sprigs of pre-war days. Prints tend to be geometric or formal stylised patterns widely spaced. Cottons designed for the West India trade, dramatic surrealist designs in brilliant colours, are included, and a group of designs from the Victoria and Albert Museum of furnishing fabrics by famous British artists completed just before the war. The exhibition remains open until the end of the month.



The florals are notable absentees in the Summer collection of Grafton anti-shrink crêpes, where one of the most effective prints is Chinese, an intricate pattern that twines and intertwines like wrought-iron, and is carried out in vivid Chinese colours. A hemlock head made a graceful print. Terra-cotta, the pink of old brick houses, and purple are featured also in a clear Chinese blue. A dot enclosed in a tiny square makes an excellent pattern for sports shirts. For lingerie, the amusing motifs include tiny over-birds on a leafy bough, also minute parachutes, Squirrel Nutkins, powder-puffs, crackers used like dots, Cyclamen and a sparkling lemon were colours added to the more usual pastel lingerie shades. Graftons are also putting on the market in late April, a heavy pliable sand crêpe—the kind of crêpe that is so successful for the type of summer dress we have photographed—and they are making this in a large range of cloudy pastels.

Moygashel are using lively colours and small designs with a lot of movement for their heavy rayons. A beach fabric shows fish, dolphins, life-buoys, anchors, sea-gulls, shells and starfish printed in blue, red, green and white on a sea-green ground. Birds in ultramarine, coral or lemon fly in formation on a dazzling white ground. Pure linens come in the clearest of clear solid colours—lemon, terra-cotta, forget-me-not blue, as well as white and a mellow stone for tailored suits. The formal spray or flower head that looks as though it were brushed on appears in this collection. Tomato red is a newcomer in the plainer fabrics.

P. JOYCE REYNOLDS.

ah! oh!
SOLO



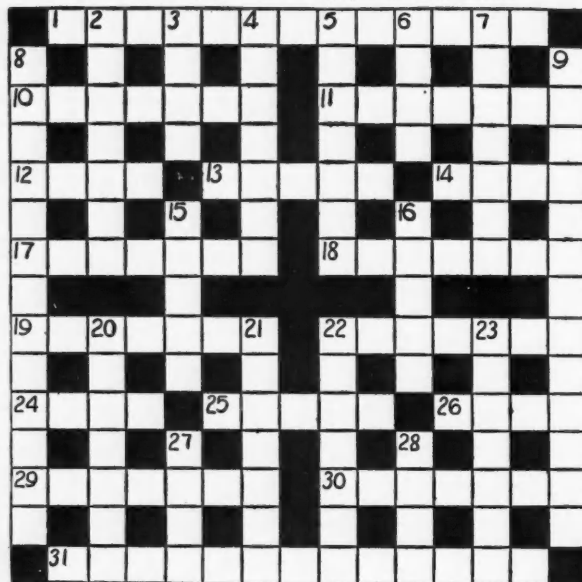
you'll see it
again soon!

SOLO means *REAL*
ORANGE JUICE

CROSSWORD No. 835

Two guineas will be awarded for the first correct solution opened. Solutions (in a closed envelope) must reach "Crossword No. 835, COUNTRY LIFE, 2-10, Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2," not later than the first post on Thursday, January 31, 1946.

NOTE.—This Competition does not apply to the United States.



Name.....
(Mr., Mrs., etc.)

Address.....

SOLUTION TO No. 834. The winner of this Crossword, the clues of which appeared in the issue of January 18, will be announced next week.

ACROSS.—1 and 3, Highmindedness; 9, Real; 10, Lieutenant; 12, Image; 13, Artery; 15, Rot; 18, Gates; 19, Increased; 22, Amendment; 24, Trier; 25, Her; 26, Urbane; 29, Evils; 32, Eulogistic; 33, Fade; 34 and 35, Four-poster beds. DOWN.—1, Hurlingham; 2, Guarantees; 4, Imitative; 5, Doubt; 6, Drear; 7, Evan; 8, Site; 11, Versed; 14, Ear; 16, Assimilate; 17, Addressees; 20, Catherine; 21, Entree; 23, Mab; 27, Rig up; 28, Asses; 30, Deaf; 31, Clou.

ACROSS

1. Elusive monarch of the tree tops (6, 7)
10. Rip coat and find fruit (7)
11. Paris to a Roman (7)
12. Long, short and square, perhaps (4)
- 13 and 14. More permanent than an identification card: you can't lose it (5, 4)
17. Gyves (7)
18. "One that loved not wisely but too well" (7)
19. Boys of singularly destructive tendency (7)
22. Day that always ends with a tub (7)
- 24 and 25. You may expect a crop of platitudes from their fields of learning (9)
26. Cultivate the soil; there should be money in it (4)
29. Sounds a staggering dog (7)
30. "Let them not live to taste this land's increase, That would with — wound this fair land's peace."—Shakespeare (7)
31. Suitable headgear for a young Communist in Yorkshire? (3, 6, 4)

DOWN

2. What it says, though it must be read down (7)
3. The tool for choice (4)
4. Insert E (anagr.) (7)
5. Mixture of black and white (7)
6. Pretty ending for a painter (4)
7. Not the intake: just the opposite (7)
8. Answered by the man who goes native (4, 2, 3, 4)
9. Reverse the townward drift (4, 2, 3, 4)
15. A man climbing up to mend the roof: now the lights have been (5)
16. Domain of an African queen (5)
20. An engineer comes to do duty when required (7)
21. Taken and locked up (7)
22. Poet who was almost all bones and no flesh (7)
23. Another poet, would make a "Sir," too (7)
27. Hardly the way to cook fish (4)
28. Teeth are engaged in it. There's a mare here! (4)

The winner of Crossword No. 834 is

Mr. George B. Hunter,
100, East Claremont Street,
Edinburgh.

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£20 (18 coupons)

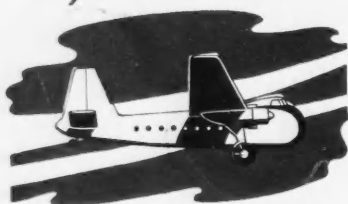
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